

CORRESPONDENCE

From July, 1846, to January, 1847.

RELATING TO

THE MEASURES ADOPTED

FOR THE

RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.

FISHERIES SERIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

L O N D O N :

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1847.

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FISHERIES—IRELAND.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
July 2, 1846.*

WE have the honour to report that we have received an application from Maurice Blake, Esq., in the county of Galway, for the construction of a pier at Tarra, in the Bay of Kinvarra, and have had an inspection made thereof by B. D. Gibbons, Esq., the Board's Engineer, whose report is very favourable to the proposed work, the cost of which he estimates at two thousand one hundred pounds (2100*l.*)

And we beg leave to recommend that an advance be made of two thousand one hundred pounds (2100*l.*), one half, that is, one thousand and fifty pounds (1050*l.*) to be a free grant, the other moiety to be a loan to be levied as follows:—

One-half of the loan to be levied off Mr. Blake, the proprietor, and one-half off the adjacent district.

We have therefore to request that your Lordships' attention may be directed to the 10th section of the Act, and, that we may receive instructions as to the period for the repayment, as well as the rate of interest to be charged upon the sum of one thousand and fifty pounds (1050*l.*) the amount to be advanced by way of loan.

Upon receiving your Lordships' "provisional approval," we shall prepare without loss of time the "provisional declaration," and proceed in the matter as therein directed.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

July 7, 1846.

My Lords are pleased, provisionally, to sanction the grant and loan recommended for the construction of a pier at Tarra, county of Galway, at an expense of 2100*l.*, one-half, that is, 1050*l.* to be a grant, and the remaining half a loan, of which one-half, that is 525*l.* is to be levied off Maurice Blake, Esq., the proprietor, and the remaining one-half (525*l.*) on the adjacent district, the loan to be repaid in 20 half-yearly instalments, together with interest at the rate of 5*l.* per cent. on the sum outstanding. Communicate their Lordships' provisional approval of this work to the Commissioners of Fisheries in Ireland in the usual manner.

The COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
August 20, 1846.*

WE have the honour to report that an application has been received by us from Sir William Wrixon Becher, Bart., under the Act 9 Viet. c. 3, for works connected with the fishery pier at North Harbour, in the island of Cape Clear, and for a small pier and clearing away rocks in the adjoining island of Sherkin; and having had an examination made of the places, and having received the reports of B. D. Gibbons, Esq., the Board's engineer, detailing the works which he would recommend to have executed, with an estimate of the cost, amounting to 400*l.*; and his reports being favourable, we beg leave to recommend to your Lordships to make a grant of two-thirds of the estimate £267

The proprietor to advance the remaining third 133

£400

[P.]

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We beg leave to state that we lay this recommendation now before your Lordships, without waiting to have all the applications under this Act investigated and reported on, with a view to a proper selection, as directed by your Lordships' letter of the 1st ultimo, because we are satisfied that the works here proposed have such claims that they must be amongst those recommended for a grant at any time; and the destitution of the islanders is represented to be very severe, and that they are unable to go to sea to fish for the want of food to take with them; and it happens that there is so little of masonry, or the preparation of stone material, in what is proposed to be done, that the work will be almost entirely available as employment to the inhabitants of the islands.

Upon receiving your Lordships' approval, and the contribution of the proprietor being lodged, we shall have the works proceeded with.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

August 25, 1846.

My Lords are pleased to sanction the grant of 267*l.* for this work on the proprietor contributing one-third of the expense, or 133*l.*

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works accordingly.

COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
September 23, 1846.*

WE have the honour to report that we have received an application from Major-General Thompson, for the construction of a pier at Rosroe, in the county of Galway, and have had an inspection made thereof by B. D. Gibbons, Esq., the Board's engineer, whose report is very favourable to the proposed work, the cost of which he estimates at 800*l.*

And we beg leave to recommend that an advance be made of the sum of *six hundred pounds*, being three-fourths of the estimated cost, by way of grant, General Thompson having agreed to contribute the remaining one-fourth, two hundred pounds.

Upon receiving your Lordships' provisional approval, we shall prepare without delay the provisional declaration, and proceed in the matter as therein directed.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

September 29, 1846.

Acquaint the Commissioners of Public Works that my Lords provisionally approve of the work in question, and the grant of 600*l.* in aid thereof.

COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
September 23, 1846.*

WE have the honour to report that we have received an application from W. H. Carter, Esq., of Castlemartin, for the construction of a canal or navigable cut, to connect the Bays of Blacksod and Broadhaven, on the coast of Mayo, and have had a survey made of the locality, and received the report of Mr. B. D. Gibbons, the Board's engineer, which is very favourable to the proposed work, the cost of which he estimates at 9000*l.*

The bays in question are separated from each other by a narrow isthmus, which connects with the mainland of Mayo the extensive peninsula called "The Mullet."

The cut proposed is intended to afford to the fishermen a short passage from one bay into the other, instead of their being obliged, as at present, to proceed round the whole coast of the peninsula, or drag their boats with great difficulty over the narrow strip of land through which the proposed canal is intended to be made.

We therefore beg leave to recommend, that an advance by way of grant of 5000*l.* of the expense, be made for the projected work, the remaining 4000*l.* being provided as follows, viz. :—

One moiety, 2000*l.* off the district.

The other moiety, 2000*l.* off the county at large.

Upon receiving your Lordships' provisional approval, we shall prepare, without delay, the provisional declaration directed by the Act, and proceed in the matter as therein directed.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

September 25, 1846.

My Lords refer to the 10th clause of the Act of last session, cap. 3, and are pleased to approve provisionally of the proposed work.

Acquaint the Commissioners of Fisheries, &c., with their Lordships' provisional approval of the work in question and of the grant of 5000*l.* in aid thereof; desire that they will inform my Lords whether a loan will be required in anticipation of the remainder of the expense which is to be raised off the district and county at large, in order that my Lords may specify the time to be allowed for repayment, and the interest to be charged thereon as provided in the clause referred to.

COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

*Office of Public Works, Custom House,
Dublin, September 28, 1846.*

WE have received an application from Sir Richard O'Donnell for a grant, in aid of the construction of a quay wall, and deepening of a channel connected therewith, near the town of Newport, in the county of Mayo.

A portion of this work has already been built by Sir R. O'Donnell, at a cost, it is stated, of about 600*l.*, and, in our opinion, the work is one of great utility, and deserving of public aid, irrespective of the present circumstances of the country, which require employment to be found for the distressed population.

The portion already completed is resorted to at present by great numbers of fishing-boats, from which are landed large quantities of herrings during the fishing season.

The estimate for this work amounts to 1200*l.*, and we submit, for your Lordships' favourable consideration, that a grant be made from the funds at our disposal of 800*l.*, in consideration of the proprietor contributing the remainder of the cost, and also in consideration of his previous heavy expenditure on the work.

The excavation of the channel will afford immediate employment to a very poor district.

The site has been inspected by the Chairman of the Board, and Mr. Gibbons, the engineer for piers and harbours, both of whom highly approve of this work.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

October 2, 1846.

My Lords are pleased to sanction this grant. Write to the Commissioners of Public Works accordingly.

COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
October 2, 1846.*

WE have the honour to report, that having received an application from the Earl of Devon, in his capacity of Chairman of the Irish Waste Land Improvement Society, for the erection of a pier, at a place called Rusben Harbour, in the Bay of Kilkerrin, County of Galway, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 9 Vic., cap. 3, we had an examination made of the site of the proposed improvements, and received a report thereon from B. D. Gibbons, Esquire, the Board's engineer, which is most favourable to the projected works.

The estimated cost is 3000*l.*

We, therefore, beg to recommend for your Lordships' approval the following arrangement, by which the requisite funds may be provided; viz.—

	£.
Grant from your Lordships	1500
Loan to be repaid by levies of the district surrounding that will be benefited by the work	1000
Contribution of the Waste Land Society	500
	£3000

Upon receiving your Lordships' provisional approval, we shall prepare, without delay, the provisional declaration directed by the Act, and proceed in the matter as therein directed.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

October 6, 1846.

My Lords are pleased provisionally to sanction the grant and loan recommended for the construction of a pier at Rushen Harbour, in the Bay of Kilkerrin, County Galway, at a total expense of 3000*l*. One-half, that is 1500*l*., to be a grant; 1000*l*. a loan, to be repaid by levies on the district surrounding which will be benefited by the work, and the remaining 500*l*. to be contributed by the Waste Land Society; the loan to be repaid in 20 half-yearly instalments, together with interest, at the rate of 5 per cent., on the sums outstanding.

Communicate their Lordships' provisional approval of the work to the Commissioners of Fisheries in Ireland in the usual manner.

MR. WALKER to MR. TREVELYAN.

*Office of Public Works, Custom House, Dublin,
October 19, 1846.*

WITH reference to the Board's letter of the 2nd instant, making application for a grant and loan for the improvement of Rushen Harbour, in the county of Galway, as follows, viz.—

Grant	£1500
Loan, to be repaid by district	1000
Contribution of Waste Land Society	500
Estimated cost.	£3000

And to their Lordships' letter of the 6th instant, sanctioning the same, I have to acquaint you that the Irish Waste Land Society request a loan of the sum of five hundred pounds (£500), which is to be borne by them, and are willing that their estate should be charged for its repayment. I am therefore to request that you will obtain their Lordships' approval to the loan in question, in addition to the sum of £1000, which they have already sanctioned, viz.—

Grant	£1500
Loan	1500

Repayment of loan:—

£1000 to be levied off the district.

500 to be levied off the estate of the Irish Waste Land Society

£1500

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

October 20, 1846.

Authorize the loan of £500 proposed to the Waste Land Improvement Society.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

Office of Public Works, October 7, 1846.

ON the 9th JUNE, 1845, a recommendation was forwarded from this Board for a grant of 90*l*. in aid of the improvement of the pier at Kilmore, in the County Wexford, which received the sanction of your Lordships, a sum of 30*l*. having been raised for the object by private contribution. On the 26th November following, a further grant was recommended of 150*l*., the parties interested having collected 50*l*., and which grant was sanctioned per letter, dated 6th December, 1845. In the representation of the 9th June, above referred to, the peculiar circumstances under which this very useful work had been commenced and prosecuted were set forth, and a hope was expressed that further grants would be made as further subscriptions should be raised.

Since then, two other grants have been recommended by this Board, and sanctioned by your Lordships, for the pier in question; one of 90*l*. which was sent forward on the 26th February, 1846, 30*l*. having been contributed by the parties; and the other of 300*l*. on the 16th May, 1846, local subscriptions having amounted to 100*l*.

We now beg leave to state, that we have received a further sum of 70*l*., being private contributions towards the completion of the work, and we request your Lordships' sanction to an additional grant of 210*l*. to be applied in aid thereof out of the balance of the fishery funds in the possession of the Board, upon the same principle on which the before-mentioned grants of 90*l*., 150*l*., 90*l*., and 300*l*. respectively, were recommended and authorised.

The balance of the fishery fund now available is 461*l*. 16*s*. 5*d*.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

October 9, 1846.

Authorise the Commissioners of Public Works to make a further grant from the fishery fund, of 210*l*. for the improvement of the pier at Kilmore, on a private subscription of 70*l*. being applied to the same purpose.

MR. WALKER to MR. TREVELYAN.

Office of Public Works, Dublin, October 8, 1846.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, conveying the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to an advance on account of the Belmullet canal,—and with reference to the latter part thereof, inquiring whether a loan will be required in anticipation of the remainder of the expense, I have to inform you that a loan will be required of Four thousand pounds (4000*l*.), the amount of which is to be afterwards borne by "the district" and the county at large, and have to request their Lordships' sanction to an advance to this amount accordingly.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

October 13, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, conveying to them their Lordships' sanction of the loan of 4000*l*. for this work.

TREASURY MINUTE.

November 13, 1846.

READ 15 letters from the Commissioners of Fisheries, &c., in Ireland, dated 7th instant, recommending the execution of the following works under the provisions of the Act of 9 Victoria, cap. 3, and stating that on receiving their Lordships' provisional approval of these several works, they will prepare without loss of time the provisional declaration, and proceed in the matter as directed by the Act.

The amounts of the estimated expense of these several works, and of the sums

to be received by contributions and loans, and required from the Grant Fund authorised by the said Act, are as follows, viz.—

Work.	Estimated Expense.	Grant.	Loan to be repaid by District.	Loan to be repaid by Proprietor.	Contributions.	Contributor.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	
Breakwater at Newcastle, county Down.	8,000	4,000	1,500		2,500	Lady Annesly.
Breakwater at Valentine Island.	2,700	1,800	900	..	..	
Extension of Pier at Dingle	3,000	1,500	1,500	..	..	
Pier at Kilmakelogue, county Kerry.	2,200	1,100	825	275	..	Marquis of Lansdown.
Pier at Brandon, county Kerry.	600	450	150	..	..	
Cut from a Lake to the Sea at Berislisson, county Galway.	800	535	265	..	..	
Repairing Piers at Roundstone, county Galway.	1,200	600	300	300	..	
Pier at Ballinakill, county Galway.	900	450	200	250	..	
Pier at Ballycollin, county Cork.	2,700	1,600	1,700	..	..	
Pier at Ventry, county Kerry	2,200	1,100	1,100	..	..	
Pier in Arran Island . .	2,400	1,600	..	..	800	Inhabitants.
Improvement of Ardsling Harbour, county Down.	2,400	1,600	200	600	..	Lord Newry and Mr. Atkinson.
Pier at Slide, county Wexford.	1,400	800	600	..	..	
Pier at Courtown, county Wexford.	4,000	2,000	..	2,000	..	Earl of Courtown.
Pier at Bunowen, county Galway.	6,400	4,800	1,400	200	..	J. V. O'Neill, Esq.
	40,900	23,330	10,640	3,625	3,800	

Write to the Commissioners of Fisheries in Ireland, conveying to them their Lordships' provisional approval of these works, and desiring them to proceed in the matter in conformity with the provisions of the Act.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS of the TREASURY.

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
December 5, 1846.*

WE had the honour to receive your Lordships' provisional sanction under the Act 9 Vict. c. 3, to a grant of 1125*l.* towards the erection of a pier at Portasblan on the north coast of Donegal; Mr. Stewart of Ards, the proprietor of the estate contributing 375*l.*, the estimate being 1500*l.*

The estimate was made with the full expectation that quarries close to the site of the work would yield suitable material, but it has been found on opening them that such is not the case; and that it will be requisite to have recourse to quarries at a distance and difficult of access. It becomes in consequence, necessary to provide additional funds, for which it is proposed to assess the district benefited, for the sum of 400*l.*, to be advanced by way of loan; to this change in the arrangement we pray your Lordships' provisional sanction, under the 15th clause of the Act referred to.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

December 11, 1846.

My Lords are pleased provisionally to sanction the work in question under the provisions of 9 Vict. c. 3, with the alteration proposed by the Board of Works; a further sum of 400*l.* to be advanced by them as a loan to be repaid by assessment on the district.

Write to the Board of Works accordingly.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS to the LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE TREASURY.

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
January 6, 1847.*

WE have the honour to state that we received some time since an application from Thomas Wise, Esq., M.P., and the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, for the extension of the fishery pier at Ballinacourty, in the county of Waterford, and that we have had an inspection made of it by Mr. B. D. Gibbons, the Board's Engineer, whose report is very favourable to the project, the cost of which will be 500*l.*; and we beg to recommend a grant of 375*l.* towards the work, Mr. Wyse contributing the balance, viz., 125*l.*

This recommendation was determined upon when the several applications for piers were under consideration; but was held over until Mr. Wyse consented to make the contribution, which he has now done.

Upon receiving your Lordships' provisional sanction, we shall prepare the provisional declaration, and proceed as therein directed.

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 8, 1847

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works, conveying to them the provisional sanction of my Lords to this work, at the expense of 500*l.*, three-fourths of which, or 375*l.*, is to be defrayed by a grant, and the remaining fourth, or 125*l.*, by a contribution to be made by Mr. Wyse.

Lieut.-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, August 27, 1846.

At the moment we are receiving horrifying accounts from the west of Cork, we receive accounts that the fishery is very abundant; sprats have been sold for manure, and fine skates can be purchased at 1*½d.* each. Herrings are unsaleable at 3*d.* to 4*d.* per 120. All spirit of enterprise seems to be paralysed; the notion prevails that without potatoes fish will be valueless. God help them.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Lieut.-Colonel JONES.

Treasury, September 11, 1846.

PRAY answer me this question, and I think you will be able to do it without issuing any queries, which I need not say it would be desirable to avoid. Can any addition be made to the stock of food by encouraging extra employment in the fisheries in Ireland and curing the fish?

Lieut.-Colonel JONES to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, September 17, 1846.

I SEND you a copy of a letter from Captain Gilbert, our inspecting officer at Sligo, by which you will perceive that, from the want of a small quantity of salt, much valuable food has been lost. The money expended by deputations coming up to the Lord Lieutenant would more than pay for the salt necessary to save the herrings. I was told yesterday that the trawlers in the Bay of Dublin had left off; in consequence of the scarcity of potatoes, there was no sale for the white fish. Really people deserve to starve where this is the case.

ENCLOSURE.

Captain GILBERT to Lieut.-Colonel JONES.

Ballymoate, Tuesday morning.

THERE has been lately an immense take of herrings along the coast and in the barony of Carberry. Last Thursday they were offered for sale at 3*d.* per 100; but thousands were actually destroyed and allowed to perish for the want of salt to cure them. Surely this ought to be looked into, as the poor seem so anxious to take every possible step to make provision for themselves. I feel convinced, if the herring fishery and other fisheries were carried on upon a large scale, as on the coast of Cornwall in the pilchard fishery, an abundance of provisions could be obtained for the poor, as well as employment for the men.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Mr. LOCH.

October 1, 1846.

I SHALL be obliged to you to send a copy of the notice issued by you on the Duke of Sutherland's behalf, offering bounties for the largest takes and cures of fish to Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, chairman of the Board of Works, Dublin.

It is now so undeniable that we are entering upon a period of serious scarcity, that it becomes necessary to have recourse to every available means of supply; and as far as anything is to be done in the way of stimulating the fisheries, I think your plan is the best.

TREASURY MINUTE.

October 23, 1846.

Mr. TREVELYAN lays before the Board a correspondence which has passed between him and the Chairman of the Board of Works and Fisheries in Ireland, relative to the proposed formation of efficient curing establishments for fish on the western and southern coast of Ireland, and the providing of a stock of salt to be sold to persons who wish to cure fish on their own account; and suggesting that a portion of a fund, now in the hands of the trustees of the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, and which those trustees are desirous of rendering available for the relief of the present distress, may be properly applied for that purpose, under the regulations and conditions stated in a Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Trevelyan, a copy of which is annexed to the correspondence.

My Lords have before them the copy of a resolution of a general meeting held on the 29th August, 1822, of a Committee of contributors to a subscription which had been raised for the relief of urgent distress in Ireland, for the purpose of considering in what manner the balance remaining in their hands should be disposed of, which resolution is in these words, viz.:

"That the sum of 5000*l.* be granted for the assistance of the industrious poor engaged in the fisheries of Ireland, within the districts recently afflicted by the distress of scarcity."

My Lords have also before them a copy of the charter granted by Her Majesty to the Irish Reproductive Loan Institution, dated 4th June, 1844. This charter places in the charge of the governors named therein, and three other governors to be appointed by this Board, a further sum of 45,000*l.*, and its accumulation, being also a part of the balance of the above subscription, to be employed in loans to the industrious classes in the provinces of Munster and Connaught, of small sums of money, implements of labour, seed, or other raw materials, to be employed in husbandry, trade, or fisheries.

And the charter enacts that the governors shall render to this Board annually a true account of all their operations, containing all such particulars as shall from time to time be required by my Lords.

The governors of the said institution have also had the charge of the above sum of 5000*l.*, voted for the assistance of the industrious poor engaged in the fisheries in Ireland.

Transmit copies of this Minute, and of the above Memorandum, and the accompanying papers, to the governors of the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, and request that they will consider the same, and inform my Lords whether, under the present circumstances, as stated in the papers, they will consent to the appropriation of the whole or a part of the above sum of 5000*l.*, in the manner and on the conditions proposed in the Memorandum.

Inform them that although my Lords cannot guarantee that the sum advanced shall be repaid to them under any circumstances which may occur, they will give instructions to the Fishery Commissioners that every precaution shall be taken for the security of the principal advanced, and its re-payment, together with any profit which may accrue thereon.

State at the same time, that my Lords avail themselves of the connexion created by the charter of 4th of June, 1844, between their institution and this Board, by expressing to them their decided opinion that the appropriation of the fund in the manner proposed, is fully justified by the terms of the original grant, and would meet the benevolent views of the subscribers by whom the fund was raised in 1822, for the purpose of affording relief in a period of distress, in the western provinces of Ireland, similar to that which now exists.

As the necessity for establishing the proposed curing stations is urgent, request that the governors will favour my Lords with their decision on the above proposal, at their earliest convenience.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Lieut.-Colonel JONES.

October 1, 1846.

THE question of stimulating the fisheries to the early production of an increased supply of food has apparently assumed a practical form, which renders it necessary for me again to consult you upon it.

The Irish Reproductive Loan Fund Board have a sum of about 5,000*l.* at their disposal, which was originally appropriated for the encouragement of fisheries, and they have been strongly urged to apply it to that object, under the present circumstances of the country.

You will find among the accompanying papers a specific plan for this purpose, by Sir James Donohue, who proposes that it should be employed in making small loans, through the medium of the Coast-guard, for the purpose of enabling fishermen to buy lines, &c.

Another plan has actually been adopted by the Duke of Sutherland, with the same object of increasing the supply from the fisheries—namely, to offer certain fixed bounties for the *largest numbers* of fish taken and cured; and you will find a copy of a letter from myself to Sir T. Dick Lauder, the Secretary to the Fishery Board in Scotland, suggesting that this plan should be taken up by the Government and extended, *for the occasion*, to the whole of the coasts of Scotland. I shall also write to Mr. Loch, the Duke of Sutherland's agent, and request him to send you a copy of the notice issued by him on behalf of the Duke.

I shall be obliged to you to take an early opportunity of considering the subject in concert with your colleagues and the Fishery Inspectors; and if you can agree upon a plan according to which the 5,000*l.* in question can, in your opinion, be laid out with advantage in encouraging such an immediate increase of the produce of the Irish fisheries, as will furnish a valuable resource in the present scarcity, and if you will put the plan in writing in a tangible shape, I will submit it to the Reproductive Loan Fund Board, who have every desire to do what the occasion requires, and only wish to be assured that the money entrusted to them will be really usefully laid out.

I have only two further suggestions to make: one of which is, that the bounty plan has this advantage over that of loans—that while loans can only influence the operations of the particular individuals to whom they are made, bounties ought to give a stimulus to all the persons embarked in the business; and the other is, that the benefit of obtaining large takes of fish would be in a great measure lost if effectual precautions were not taken to secure their being properly cured.

MEMORANDUM of the BOARD of PUBLIC WORKS on IRISH FISHERIES.

IRISH FISHERIES—*Offer of £5000 from Reproductive Loan Fund.*

WITH reference to Mr. Trevelyan's letter to Colonel Jones on this subject, the Board of Public Works, Ireland, having considered various projects, are of opinion that the course best calculated to make this small fund quickly available to the greatest extent in the present season of scarcity would be as follows:—

- 1st. To buy, cure, and sell fish through trustworthy agents at four or five stations on the west coast of Ireland.
- 2nd. To supply those agents with lines, hooks, hemp, and other fishing tackle, *to be sold* at a very moderate profit in remote stations, where such necessities shall be found wanting.
- 3rd. To supply those agents also with salt in such quantities as would suffice not only for the curing of any fish purchased by them, but also for sale at a moderate profit, to fishermen and other persons of small means disposed to cure fish.

The reasons for this course are fully mentioned in the accompanying papers (A and B), to which the Board beg leave to call Mr. Trevelyan's attention.

By order,

J. C. WALKER, *Secretary.*

ENCLOSURES.

(A.)

FISHERIES—Food and Employment.

THE Board have carefully considered Mr. Trevelyan's letter, with its enclosures, and Mr. Barry's remarks; also Mr. Loch's letter to Colonel Jones.

With reference to the last, it is considered a most useful course for private or local parties to adopt, and urge its publication in the Irish newspapers as a spur to Irish proprietors; but neither that course, nor bounties, nor loans would meet the emergency, or be sufficient for the present occasion.

The Board have a strong opinion against the system of bounties or loans, as a general principle, through the agency of the Government, and are backed in this opinion by the Report of the Commissioners of Fishery Inquiry; the administration of either would cost far more than their worth. Loans of materials are admitted to be useful; but let them be through local bodies, and, if necessary, increase the means of such bodies, in proportion to some given scale of means furnished by themselves.

As to the fund of 5000*l.* offered, it must, it is understood, be used as a *reproductive fund*; it, therefore, would not be applicable to bounties.

For the present occasion, and to effect the maximum of good in the most rapid way, it is submitted that no application of the fund can be so effective as that of purchasing the fish; thus at once adding to the stock of food, to the amount of profitable employment in the way most natural and best understood by the fishermen, and free from all experimental and speculative theories as to the "*modus operandi*."

By this means even this fund, 5000*l.*, might be made to circulate *several times* over during the season. The Board could almost guarantee a market for the fish, fresh or salt, near the sites of their several works. The whole project in Paper (B) is to create a steady demand for the white and round fish during the winter, not to depend upon or interfere with the variable herring fishery.

It would appear objectionable to work this project by any but agents who could be controlled in their proceedings by Government, who would not permanently interfere with trade, or compete injudiciously with existing traffic; who would, in fact, simply act to keep up the steady demand by purchasing that which private traders left, and thus keep the fishermen constantly employed.

Concurrently with this, stores of fishing-tackle might be sold at first cost price, and *sent* provided where the purchasing agents are located; and in this way the fund would probably circulate ten times over before the termination of the season.

If, added to this, the Commissariat Department were to advertise for or buy supplies of cured fish, a great and important stimulus would be given to private enterprise in the localities, both to purchase and cure the fish.

With a *positive deficiency* of food in the country, and an *abundance of one class of food* surrounding our coasts, the necessity of taking the most rapid course to make that food available cannot be too strongly urged.

Any system of bounty, premium, or loans would be entirely too slow in its operation, would open the door to the establishment of *pernicious principles*, and lead to expectations of a permanent system, which must evidently be *disappointed*; whereas this project is evidently, by its nature, temporary, being to afford increased food and employment for the present.

(B.)

MEMORANDA as to providing EMPLOYMENT AND FOOD, to supply, in part, the deficiency in the POTATO CROP.

Irish Fisheries.

THE potato crop of this year being almost totally lost, and assuming that, from a combination of causes arising out of this circumstance, and the possible deficiency of supply from other countries, there will be an insufficient supply of cheap food for a large portion of the people during part of the present, and next year, the attention is, almost necessarily, turned to the fisheries, as an immediate and convenient source of supply.

The existence of abundance of the best kinds of fish, on and immediately off the Irish coast, is proverbial; so, also, is the want of a steady or sufficient supply of fish for consumption, of salt and curing establishments; and, in many instances, of the necessary means of capture.

These observations apply especially to the west and north-west coast:—on the east, and part of the south, the supply, urged by increasing and steady demand, as well as by steam navigation to England, is becoming larger. Still it is to be recollected that Ireland (even on the west coast) is chiefly supplied with salt herrings from Scotland; and most of the ling and other salt fish is imported.

The registry table attached to the Fourth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries, exhibits a lamentable want, in vast districts, of boats of a size suitable for carrying on a constant fishing.* This is, in many cases, immediately attributable to the want of suitable fishing

* In many cases there are not more than from two to twelve first-class boats in districts having from 50 to 100 miles of coast, and in Donegal, county Donegal, not one such boat in 174 miles: a first-class boat being defined to be one with a standing mast and rigging, even though open or undecked.

piers and small shelter harbours; which want, however, is now in progress of being partially remedied by the Act of this session, 9 Viet. c. 3.

But all these—the deficiency of supply, the want of boats, improved fishing tackle, gear, and skill—are mainly attributable to the want of a steady constant demand, and *remunerating price near the site of the fisheries*; while, on the other hand, the want of demand and price is chiefly caused by the remoteness of the districts, the want of quick and facile means of communication with good markets, and the total absence of an enterprising spirit of trade to establish curing stores, and create, *on the spot*, the steady market for the fruit of the fisherman's labour.

As regards the *future*—the construction of railways throughout the country, the increase of steam navigation, and the enterprising spirit that will be evoked to make them pay, will soon apply the necessary remedy to these evils, and develop the resources of the Irish fisheries.

But with reference to this and the ensuing year, whether as regards *employment or the supply of food*, the best, and, probably the only successful course to be adopted is clearly indicated, namely:—*to create the steady daily demand near the sites of the fishing grounds, by purchasing, at a moderate but remunerating price, the produce of each day's labour—to cure, on the best principles, all the fish not required for immediate consumption; and to provide means for the daily carriage into the interior of all the superior kinds of fresh fish, which may be wanted for consumption in that state.*

From the registry already adverted to, it will be perceived that there were, last year, more than 93,000 men and boys engaged in the fisheries; but when it is recollected what a number of individuals form the families of these men, and the still greater number employed in various trades and sources of traffic connected with fisheries, and who depend thereon for their livelihood, the advantages, as regards *employment alone*, to result from providing fish to supply, in part, the deficiency in food, will be found worthy of the gravest consideration.

If the purchase of fish be soon commenced and steadily persevered in, the men will, by their own earnings, be soon enabled to provide themselves with suitable gear and tackle; and thus, in the most legitimate way, and that most calculated to create a permanent spirit of enterprise and self-reliance, this want will be remedied: to attempt to supply it either by gift or loan, without providing the market, would be almost a *useless expenditure, conferring little benefit on any party.*

The results detailed in the Second, Third, and Fourth Annual Reports of the Fishery Commissioners, with reference to the successful operations of a company at Waterford, both in a commercial and lucrative point of view, and as regards the increased consumption of fish in that neighbourhood, with its wholesomeness and cheapness as an article of food, will, most probably, if promulgated through the press, lead parties along the east, north-east, and southern coast, where the stimulus of good markets exist, and the means for readily entering into the trade are convenient, to take the matter up as a speculation of profit, under the pressing circumstances of the ensuing year.

But a thorough knowledge of the west and north-west coasts of Ireland creates an apprehension that it will be quite hopeless to expect that any efficient effort would be made there, *through the instrumentality of unaided local or private enterprise*, to obtain any useful store of food for next season, although, in those districts, fish is most abundant.

In fact, for such objects as are here adverted to, the commencement of operations should not be postponed or delayed, and these operations should be steadily carried on throughout the winter, spring, and summer. Local traders, or private companies, unaided, would not be prepared in time, and would not incur the risk of making such an experiment as a source of profit in remote districts. However, therefore, in ordinary cases, it is opposed to sound policy for the Government, either directly or indirectly, to enter into such transactions, there appears to be no other course open under the circumstances of the anticipated emergency than, through some suitable agency, to purchase, cure, and store, in some of the more remote districts in Ireland, an ample supply of fish; and, thereby effect two objects essential to the alleviation of distress, viz., *an increased supply of cheap food, and lucrative employment for a large portion of the population.*

The course proposed, of merely buying the produce of the men's labour, is, if not the most legitimate, the least opposed to sound policy, and partakes least of the character of undue interference with the trade of individuals; as in the case of the Indian meal last year, there are, literally, no traders or merchants engaged in this traffic on our western coast who would be injuriously interfered with.

The object, too, might be materially promoted if the Poor Law Commissioners and the Poor Law Guardians of the Unions throughout Ireland should deem it fit to have fish, both salt and fresh, supplied as an article of diet (say for two or three days in each week), and should call for contracts to supply the same; under suitable arrangements for the purpose; it is believed that, in a great part of Ireland, some of the best fish may be furnished at from ½d. to 1d. per lb. To many of the workhouses, not far remote from the coast, the fish would be supplied fresh, and, a store of salt herring been provided, the paupers, under suitable guidance, might be employed to cure it either for their own use, or that of Unions further in the interior.

Some individuals anticipate a prejudice against a fish diet being adopted to any considerable extent. Without, however, doing more than to advert to the healthfulness of the fishing population, it may be remarked that, as the fish, in this case, would be used with bread and meal instead of potatoes, there are but little grounds to anticipate any evil results, while many wholesome means of dressing it may be pointed out, and its cheapness and abundance on our own coasts are strong arguments in favour of a trial.

It is not contemplated that it would be necessary for the Government to establish many

stations for the purpose of purchase; a few might be mentioned; as, for instance, Roundstone and Ballynakill, county Galway; Belmullet, Achill, and Keshla, county Mayo; Killybegs and Rusland, county Donegal; with one or two places in Kerry and in the western part of Cork.

Once a steady daily market was created at these places by the purchase each day of all fish brought in, carriers from the interior would be found, as a matter of certainty, to congregate thither, and take away all the fresh fish required for immediate consumption, and the traffic being created, merchants and traders in the vicinity would be found gradually to enter into the trade, so that, probably, in a short time, the Government agent would either be enabled to withdraw, or find that all that was requisite to keep up the supply was, *to prevent a monopoly in salt by having a sufficient store* ready for sale at first cost*, and to regulate the market and its price by buying all that remained after the carriers and private traders had completed their purchases.

At present, in many districts in Ireland, owing to the want of such a demand, the fishermen depending chiefly on the uncertain *berling fishery in-shore*, very seldom go out for white fish, though the coast abounds with cod, ling, haddock, hake, and all the superior kinds of flat fish; while the same want of market lends them to oppose violently the use of the trawl net, the deep-sea seine, the trammel net, and other effective engines, which would capture so much greater quantities than the wants of the locality, *without caring establishments or fixed purchasers* demand, that the men feel they would have no remuneration for their labour if they suffered these engines to be used.

Now, concurrently with the creation of such a demand as is submitted in this paper, these efficient engines could be introduced, and the fishermen led quickly to avail themselves of their advantageous use, so that it may be fairly estimated that the adoption of this course would not only effect the objects immediately sought, but produce to the fisheries of the country a permanent benefit, which, but for the opportunity now afforded, and the adoption of some such means as these suggested, it might take many years to accomplish.

In carrying out these objects the coast guard service could, as it has always done in similar matters, afford most valuable aid.

Every effort should be made to secure a good supply of salt in time for the winter fishery along the west coast.

The price given for the fish should, in the first instance, be full, so as to encourage the men and wean them from established prejudices; while, such a course would also have the effect of enabling them to provide themselves with the most suitable gear and fishing tackle in an early stage of the proceedings.

The early knowledge of the intention to buy fish would induce the local traders to some extent to increase their stores of salt as well as of rope and other tackle.

The amount of money required would be small in comparison to the object, while it would be a circulating fund continually replenished by the sales.

Under judicious management there should, upon the whole, be little or no pecuniary loss in making an effort of this kind; indeed, with a view to setting an example of what might be done, and thus permanently raising the fisheries, the greatest care should be taken to avoid loss. Still, it is submitted, that, as such an experiment would not be made with a view to profit (as if undertaken by private enterprise) the consideration of risk to some extent should not, in an endeavour to avert a great national calamity, restrain the attempt to effect the highly important objects in view—*increased food and remunerative employment.*

WM. T. MCLVANY.

The foregoing paper was written last spring, and revised on the 30th ultimo, before the arrival of Mr. Trevelyan's letter of the 1st instant, in which the 5000*l.* belonging to the "Reproductive Loan Fund," is offered to be brought into operation.

October, 1846.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. TREVELYAN.

October 16, 1846.

On learning from Mr. Leake that the trustees of the Reproductive Loan Fund were ready to place at the disposal of the Government, for the purpose of procuring an increased stock of food from the Irish Fisheries in the present state of scarcity in that country, a sum of about 5000*l.* which was originally appropriated to the encouragement of the Irish Fisheries, I wrote to the Chairman of the Board of Works, and received from the Board the Documents copies of which are annexed; and I submit, for the decision of the Trustees, the following propositions for the purpose of giving practical effect to the plan recommended by the Board of Works.

1. That the Board of Works, acting in their capacity as Fishery Commissioners, establish two curing stations, at places to be selected by them for the purpose, on the Western or Southern coast of Ireland, where there may appear to be the greatest prospect of success.

* During the present season in the West Biding of Cork, where vast quantities of fish have been found, the want of salt, purchasers, &c., prevented their being made use of; and, according to information received, quantities were actually allowed to rot, or be sold for manure.

2. That none but skilled and thoroughly trustworthy agents be appointed to the charge of these stations, and that the Fishery Board of Scotland be applied to if necessary, to depute two or more persons accustomed to the modes of curing different kinds of fish practised in that country, to give the persons employed by the Board of Works the benefit of their experience as long as their assistance may be required.

3. That the necessary supplies of fish for curing be obtained by purchase from the fishermen at the current market price on the spot, care being taken to interfere as little as possible with the ordinary demand of private parties for fish, whether for curing or otherwise.

4. That the fish, when cured, be sold to the highest bidder, either on the spot or in the nearest markets, as may be considered best calculated to bring them into useful consumption at the current market price.

5. That, besides the stock of salt for the use of the curing establishment under the superintendence of the Board of Works, an additional stock, if required, be provided on the spot, for the purpose of being sold at prime cost to any private parties who may wish to cure fish on their own account; and that lines, hooks, and other cheap tackle, be likewise sold to the fishermen at prime cost.

6. That the sum of 1000*l.* be, for the present, appropriated by the Reproductive Loan Commissioners for the execution of this plan at each of the two curing stations so to be established, being 2000*l.* in all; and that the proceeds of the sales at each station be carried to the credit of the fund appropriated to that station.

7. That a report be made to this Board at the end of every month, of the measures adopted to carry out this plan, together with a store account, showing the quantity of fish, salt, &c., sold and in hand at each station, and a cash account showing the pecuniary result, copies of which Documents will be furnished to the Reproductive Loan Commissioners for their information.

8. That if the proposed plan shall appear likely, after sufficient trial, to be attended with public advantage, the remainder of the sum of 5000*l.* which has been offered by the Reproductive Loan Commissioners, will be appropriated in a similar manner.

9. That it must be clearly understood that the responsibility of the Government and the Board of Works in taking charge of this fund from the Reproductive Loan Commissioners will be limited to making the best use of it in their power for the public benefit, according to the plan proposed, subject to such modifications not affecting the principle of the plan as may from time to time appear to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to be required, and that any profit or loss which may arise will accrue to the Trustees and not to the Government.

MR. TREVELYAN to Lieutenant-Colonel JONES.

October 23, 1846.

As I feel satisfied that the Reproductive Loan Commissioners will agree to our proposals about the curing establishments, your Board may, in order to save time, proceed at once to consider in detail the measures which it will be proper to adopt in order to carry out the plan laid down in my Memorandum, which is only a development of that which your Board proposed.

As the immediate object of the plan is to make large additions to the general stock of food by curing fish, and thus rendering them available for consumption in the interior; and as it is based on the supposition that the fresh fish required for the daily supply of the curing establishments will be obtained by purchases made from private fishermen, the first thing to be attended to in the choice of places for the establishments is, to consider where the largest supplies of fresh fish are to be obtained.

You must give me every necessary detail about the quantity and description of salt which we are to procure for you.

If your fishery inspectors think it would be advisable to have the benefit of Scotch experience, especially in the curing of white fish, I will request the Fishery Board for Scotland to send two competent persons to you without delay, who may be employed in Ireland as long as they are required and may then be sent home.

I send herewith six more copies of our plans, and also three copies of a letter to myself from Sir T. Dick Lauder, Secretary to the Board of Fisheries for Scotland, which, although it proceeds on a different view of the subject, contains some useful hints.

MR. TREVELYAN to SIR T. DICK LAUDER.

October 24, 1846.

I HAVE the pleasure of sending you two copies of the plan which has been resolved upon for obtaining increased supplies of food from the fisheries in Ireland, and setting the example of an improved mode of curing fish in that country.

It would not suit the circumstances of the fisheries of Scotland, but I believe the plan to be well adapted to those of Ireland.

I shall be obliged to you to furnish me with any suggestions which your experience may dictate calculated to assist those who will have to carry out the details of the plan.

And it is possible that I may have to apply to you for the services of two persons skilled in the modes practised in Scotland of curing different kinds of fish, in order that they may assist our curers in Ireland as long as such instruction may be required.

SIR T. DICK LAUDER to MR. TREVELYAN.

*Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, October 27, 1846.*

I HAVE received yours of the 24th, covering two copies of the plan which has been resolved upon for obtaining increased supplies of food from the fisheries of Ireland, and asking me to make to you any suggestions which I may think calculated to assist those who will have to carry out the details of the plan.

It occurs to me, *in limine*, that the number of stations appointed for cure, are too few, for it is of the greatest importance that the fish should be in the salt as soon after they are taken out of the sea as possible. But, without a complete knowledge of the whole fishing coasts of Ireland, of which I am not possessed, I could not form any precise judgment on this head. I approve highly of your idea of sending over to Ireland men well skilled in the modes of cure practised in Scotland, and in order to be prepared for any demand you may find yourself called on to make on me for any such persons, I have already directed our General Inspector of the east coast to look out for, and have his eye on some individuals of good character, and well qualified for your purpose, so that as little time may be lost as possible; after receiving your commands on the subject.

It occurs to me that you might perhaps find it useful to have some copies of a little treatise which I wrote on the curing of cod and ling. I therefore send you one as a specimen. It was ordered to be printed by the Fishery Board; as was also that for the cure of herrings, for the purpose of gratis distribution among our fishermen and curers, and both have been in a great demand, and have done so much good, that, to extend their usefulness, the Board has since had both treatises translated and printed in Gaelic. I send you copies. If you think a similar circulation in Ireland would do good, a sufficient impression would be easily thrown off to any extent you might consider advisable.

It does not occur to me that I can add anything at present, but I need not assure you that any information I possess is always at your service.

LIEUT.-COL. JONES to MR. TREVELYAN.

Dublin, November 3, 1846.

MANY thanks for the two books by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder; they are extremely interesting. We intend to re-publish them with a preface. We had, previous to the receipt of the above, sent one of our inspectors to Scotland for information, and given him a letter to Sir Thomas Dick Lauder. We are also making arrangements for our establishments, and have taken a store at Roundstone, but we are obliged to be guarded in our inquiries, lest imposition should be attempted. We incline for three stations.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir R. ROUTH.

November 3, 1846.

YOU will find over leaf a copy of a letter which has been addressed to Lord John Russell, from St. Ives, on the subject of a large take of pilchards, which it would appear may be still further increased if there should be a demand for them.

I also send a column, which I have had cut out of the "*Morning Chronicle*," in reference to which I should like to know why the Irish cannot eat salt fish with meal as well as with potatoes. I breakfasted several mornings on Indian meal stirabout flavoured with dried haddock, and thought it very good.

Sir R. ROUTH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

The Castle, Dublin, November 5, 1846.

I CANNOT really tell you why the Irish dislike fish, when they have not potatoes to eat with them, except that the prejudices of the people here are sometimes unaccountable; but if they decline to purchase herrings, it is not likely that they will buy pilchards, which, you know, are pressed down flat into the hogsheads, and thus deprived of all their oily substance, which is so nutritious. I think we had better leave this to the trade, instead of attempting to combat tastes and inconsistencies, which are unaccountable, and quite impossible to reconcile with the want and suffering they endure.

MR. TREVELYAN to Sir T. D. LAUDER.

Treasury, November 7, 1846.

TWO English gentlemen, Mr. Serjeant Allen and Mr. Whalley, who have been in the habit of visiting the coasts of Ireland and Scotland in their yacht to fish, are strongly impressed with the valuable resource which line fishing might afford in the present state of scarcity; and the younger of the two, Mr. Whalley, volunteers to proceed to the coast of Scotland in his yacht, and show the people by actual trial how much can be effected in this way.

The accompanying copies of letters from Mr. Whalley and Mr. Blamire (Commissioners of Tithes, Drainage, &c.), and the letter to the "*Morning Chronicle*" referred to by Mr. Blamire, will place you in full possession of the views entertained by these gentlemen.

My impression is, that if Mr. Whalley's offer can, with a reasonable probability of public advantage, be availed of at all, it would be in this way, by a curing establishment, on the principle of those proposed for Ireland, being formed, under the superintendence of your Board, on some loch where fish abound and there is no want of fishermen, and where the fishing might be carried on throughout the winter in almost all states of the weather; and then Mr. Whalley might show the way to the local fishermen, and he and they might deliver the fish they catch at your curing establishment, to be cured, and sold to the highest bidder, the local fishermen receiving a fair market price for the fish delivered by them at the establishment, and being debited with the value of any lines, &c., supplied to them.

All this may, of course, be subject to much correction from local circumstances, of which you must be the judge, and I remit the whole matter for the decision of your Board.

ENCLOSURE.

MR. BLAMIRE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Tithe Office, London, November 4, 1846.

I HAD the pleasure of having an interview yesterday with Mr. Serjeant Robert Allen on the subject of long-line fishing, as applicable to the lochs, &c., of the west of Scotland.

In order to save your time, I have had his views on this subject embodied in an article in this day's "*Chronicle*," herewith sent. This article, although thrown together hastily by my young yachting friend Whalley, conveys most correctly his instructor's views upon this subject.

He is thoroughly convinced that the supply of fish to be obtained from these lochs is so extensive that it would not only be equal to, but far in excess of, the consumption of the neighbouring districts. He is, indeed, so fully alive to the importance of the subject that he would willingly do his uttermost to aid in any way in an endeavour to bring his own plans, or any

other more approved, in'o operation; and he charges me to assure you of his readiness to wait upon you at any time, should you desire to see him.

There would appear to be four essentials to be kept in view in reference to this matter: supplies of tackle, &c., by way of loan or otherwise; instruction by experienced and conciliatory long-line fishermen, the natives of these districts being not only entirely ignorant of, but also strongly prejudiced against, such fishing; the protection of a steam-tug on each fishing station, the West Highlanders being notoriously bad, and, consequently, timid sailors; and aid in procuring bait from the mainlands, the island affording none.

MR. WHALLEY to MR. BLANIRE.

*2, Paper Buildings, Temple,
October 29, 1846.*

THE conversation I lately had with you on the application of the Drainage Loan Act to the Highlands and Isles of Scotland, and the deplorable prospect of the deserving population of those districts, has set me thinking whether it might not be in my power, in some small degree, to forward the beneficent plans of the Government, especially as regards the encouragement of fishing.

What I propose, is, to fit out my yacht, a vessel little short of 50 tons, well adapted for those seas and lakes, and being provided with every kind of fishing gear, to repair at once to such parts of the west coast, or the islands, as the Government may suggest, and there do all that can be done in proving to the people the resources of their seas,—instructing them in the best mode of fishing, and, it may be, in affording useful information to the Government, or the proprietors, how, at the least cost, the means of using these resources can be furnished to the people.

I need scarcely tell you that sea-fishing is a long-standing hobby of mine. My crew would be, of course, the best fishermen I could find; and I would especially mention that my captain, late a master in the Royal Navy, was born and bred on the north-western coast of Scotland, and is, perhaps, more versed in the science of sea-fishing than any man in the kingdom. During four years' residence at Prince Edward Island, he made himself thoroughly master of the fishing business as practised by the Americans and French in those waters, and by ourselves at Newfoundland; and I am satisfied that if his countrymen are to be taught, he is the man to do it.

I may perhaps be of use in other respects. The doubts and difficulties which I understand some of the Scotch proprietors experience in availing themselves of the Drainage Act, I think my intimate knowledge of its letter and spirit might be useful in removing, aided by ten years' experience under your Board.

I do not propose this, as you will readily believe, with a view to personal emolument. If the Government will pay the actual outlay, I shall be quite satisfied, as I have a firm conviction that I should be enabled to do good.

P. S.—£50. a month, and 50*l.* for the best tackle and outfit, would, I should imagine, cover all expenses; and this sum cannot be, I should think, an obstacle to the adoption of my suggestion.

MR. WHALLEY to MR. BLANIRE.

*14, Earl's Terrace, Kensington,
November 4, 1846.*

I HAVE left a message for Mr. Serjeant Allen to call on you to-morrow, and I have no doubt he will satisfy you that the fishing can be carried on through the winter as well in the open sea round the isles as in the lochs, though with less interruption in the latter from occasional bad weather. In fact, the winter is the only season for cod-fishing in those parts; witness the supply to the London, &c., markets, by smacks, which seldom put in anywhere from the time they leave the Thames till they get back.

You mentioned that there was to be a steamer at Tobermory for keeping up the communication with the Isles. It would be a simple and inexpensive mode of trying the experiment, if this steamer were to carry over a few lines and books with mussel-bait, and if a few good fishermen were drafted into the crew of the steamer, a sufficient trial might be made, if not by boats from the shore, at all events from the deck of the steamer. The people, however, are better supplied with boats than with tackle, bait, or skill to use them.

Whoever may be charged with this duty must expect much opposition and contradiction there being the strongest aversion to any new system. There was a striking instance of this about 12 years ago, when some enterprising party fitted out from Ardglass, in Ireland, about 20 smacks, of about 25 tons each, to fish through the winter amongst the islands. They tried several, but wherever they went, the people systematically cut adrift the buoys attached to the "long line," and so defeated every attempt to instruct them in that mode of fishing. The London smacks go more to the north, and keep the sea till their wells are full.

MR. BLANIRE to MR. TREVELYAN.

November 9, 1846.

I HAVE the pleasure of sending you a copy of another letter from Mr. Whalley, with an interesting enclosure, in continuation of my previous communication to you on the subject of his disinterested and public-spirited proposal.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. WHALLEY to Mr. BLANIRK.

14, Earl's Terrace, Kensington,
November 7, 1846.

I beg to enclose the best account I can give of Serjeant Allen's remarks on the sea fishing of Ireland.

To make it intelligible I have been obliged to weave it in amongst some explanatory remarks of my own, which may be easily rejected by the reader, as he may deem them to the purpose or otherwise.

If Mr. Trevelyan should consider it probable that it will end in my repairing with the yacht to Scotland, perhaps he will also consider that time is an object, and therefore would excuse you asking him whether I may at once get her out of winter quarters; some days will be required before the crew, tackle, &c., can be ready, and she can sail.

In continuation of the remarks, under the head of "Northern Fisheries," wherein I quoted from a book, called "The Sportsman in Ireland and Scotland," I now add the following, consisting chiefly of further extracts from the same book, which is so far entitled to attention, as being the result of the actual observations of a member of the English bar, Mr. Serjeant Allen.

The information to be obtained from this book is peculiarly applicable to the present emergency. Without any preconceived opinion, or any possible object, in overrating the incidents of his summer ramble, it incidentally appears that having stationed himself for a month at Cahirciveen, on the south-western point of Ireland, he thoroughly proved the resources which those seas may afford for the subsistence of that district; and he further shows the extent to which those resources are at present made available. Mr. O'Connell, who is the proprietor of that district, has himself vouched in public discussion the accuracy of the narrative on points relating to this district.

Whatever fish is to be found on this point of the coast is to be found in equal abundance and variety all along the western coast.

From north to south is well known to be the course taken by the countless myriads of fish continually issuing from the north; divided when it reaches the various points of land which the British isles or islets present to it. This shoal crowds alike upon every part of the eastern and western coasts, being more or less remote from the land according to the depth of the water. "I had heard," he observes, "and was resolved to be convinced that the iron-bound coast of Kerry was celebrated for sea fishing."

"There are no fishermen at Cahir, although the coast on the outer side of Waterville is abundant in every kind of fish, yet no regular market exists. The farmers, therefore, at particular seasons, make common cause in attacking the herrings and mackerel."

In a small vessel of 12 tons, provided with long lines and deep sea tackle, he sets forth round the Island of Valencia for a night's fishing. "No sooner were the lines at the bottom, than whittings of a very large size, and such as are never seen in England, were drawn up; these were immediately put upon large hooks, and set out. Four lines, baited with mussels, were continually going, till darkness stopped our sport."

In describing his success through this his first night's fishing, the learned Serjeant's narrative is too much broken by the other incidents of the adventure to be quoted in full. Before hauling in their long line, it appears they captured a skate, which weighed nearly a hundred weight. "Conger eels," he says, "were an intolerable nuisance; but the occasional landing a ling, which is here held in high esteem, and which, indeed, is an excellent fish, again inspired my little crew." "We had now," he continues, "a good stock of ordinary fish, and I was impatient to see the result of the long line in deep water. Accordingly, at first dawn of day, the long line is hauled in; the first was a fine cod, next Conger eels, a large ling, skate, haddock, then only a row of heads, the bodies having fallen victims to the ruthless community by which they had been surrounded. Flat fish, and here and there a tolerable turbot, served to supply us with so splendid a cargo of fish, as to render all further pursuit useless." Speaking of the pleasure with which he distributed the fruits of this fishing amongst the poor, he observes, "although the coast is so abundant in produce, there are none possessed of the means or skill to furlish the Friday's meal."

The value of such well expressed facts would be impaired by speculations as to the cause or the remedy for the continued neglect of these resources. Nothing is said on this head by the author, who seems to have been tired of such a glut of easy prey, for he takes to shooting the sea fowl. The only fish trade existing thereabouts is at Dingle, and of the mode in which this is carried on the following passage affords a sketch. He is speaking of the fishermen of Dingle Bay, about 20 miles from Cahirciveen:—

"There is not even any competition in the sale of their produce. The hucksters who attend their arrival every evening, for the purpose of conveying the fish up to the mountains to Tralee, and through the country, are always prepared to take the whole, and the prices rarely vary. They are generally at this rate: whiting, 5d. per dozen of 13; mackerel, 1s. 4d. per 100; cod or hake, 9d. per dozen; and all other fish in proportion. The mode of division of proceeds is on a principle also that insures unanimity. There are six men to a boat, which is generally hired of some large proprietor; for the host is put aside two shares, the rest equally divided."

Even this mode of traffic seems to have produced the following result:—

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"The inhabitants of Dingle appear to have more comforts, are better employed, and are better paid than at most other places, whilst the improvements continually progressing under the influence of landlords who take an interest in the management of their own property, have contributed much to the social advantage of the poor. The bay is a source of endless wealth, being never without abundance of fish of all kinds."

Mr. BERTOLACCI to Mr. LEAKE.

Hibernian Hotel, Tralee, November 11, 1846.

In a letter I have received from Mr. J. A. Smith, he says, the Governors are disposed to hand the Fishery fund over to the Government.

I have refrained referring to this matter in my letters hitherto, as it is a subject to which my attention was particularly drawn by Mr. Smith's letter of instruction as Chairman, and as I have hitherto only made inquiries on this side of the Shannon, whilst we have applications to investigate referring to Galway and Mayo.

The application of this money, which you now have safe, is, in fact, the most difficult part of my duty to report on. To apply it in loans to fishermen *only*, is, from various circumstances, quite an impossibility.

1st. *All* the shallow water fishermen, and, in some instances, the deep sea fishermen (where they are to be met with) are not (as on the English coast) solely fishermen, but as much potato growers remaining idle except when the fish actually comes into the harbours.

2ndly. How are the fishermen to be prevented from being merely the representatives of a loan to a landsman, if the loan is to be made in money; and if in nets, to be repaid, I doubt if any parties except themselves would be security for the payment of the money, especially as when the fish is taken there is no salt to cure it, and even this year fish has, in many places, been thrown on the land on the coast of Cork; and I should also state that there exists a strong prejudice against eating fish *WITHOUT POTATOES*; bread or meal the poor say will not do to eat with it. As to the plan suggested by Sir James Donbrain and Mr Barry, of lending the money through the Coast Guard, I cannot (nor would you, were you to see this country along the coast) look on it in any other light than as a theory which practically could not be carried out, and I fear the funds would soon be returned as *irrecoverable*. Without pledging myself to say that means might not be adopted in Galway, where the Claddagh people seem to be a class of themselves, I certainly think that the only application of the money in loans would be to throw it into the general loan fund when matters are placed on a better footing, and let the fishermen stand on the same footing as others on the coast; but if the money is to be kept exclusively, then the most beneficial mode, I think, will be to make it available in curing the fish, so as to keep it long enough for the existing prejudice to be dissipated, or to bring it more into the interior than it at present reaches; but again, I am at a loss to say how you could do this without subjecting the funds to be jobbed or placed into competition with private enterprise, which of itself should, and no doubt ultimately will, do more than any other means.

Mr. WALKER to Mr. TREVELYAN.

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
November 10, 1846.*

I AM directed by the Board to acquaint you that they have had under consideration the subject of your memorandum of the 16th ult., with reference to the establishment of curing stations, and the purchase of fish on the western coast of Ireland, in accordance with their suggestions; and am further instructed to communicate the following particulars, in addition to those already furnished:

For the purpose of saving time, the Commissioners have despatched one of their inspectors of fisheries, Mr. Wm. Ffennell, to Scotland, with a view to obtain some detailed information relating to the establishment of curing stations, and to select two or more persons competent to act as curers; and for

this purpose they have put him in communication with Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, the Secretary to the Board of British Fisheries.

After mature examination of the registry of fishing boats, and persons engaged in fishing, and influenced by their own local knowledge, the Board recommend that, if only two stations be established, the best place for the purpose will be Roundstone, to the north-west of Galway Bay, and Killybegs, in the county of Donegal.

The number of native fishermen and boats, near or within the range of Roundstone, is 6840 men and boys, and 1530 boats of all classes; and near, or within the range of Killybegs station, there are 4607 men and boys, and 797 boats.

Both these stations are well adapted for the proposed object; they are near the offing, and yet are well sheltered, and have the advantage of tolerably good lines of communication to the interior; while, without being too remote, they are sufficiently so to preclude, to a great extent, any undue interference or competition with private enterprise.

Galway would, no doubt, afford a vast quantity of fish; indeed much more than it is conceived the small sum proposed to be used at each station would suffice to deal with; while, on the other hand, private enterprise ought to be exercised there, and, possibly, this will be the result under the stimulus created by our operations in the more remote locality.

The Board very strongly recommend that the trial be made with three stations instead of two, and are greatly influenced in this suggestion by the peculiar wants and favourable position of the place which is most fitting for the third station, namely, Belmullet. Belmullet is situate at the head of the bays of Broadhaven and Blacksod, where, under the operation of the Fishery Piers and Harbours Act, it is proposed to cut a canal of connexion between the bays referred to. This place is near the site of most excellent fishing grounds; is at present the scene of much distress and privation, and, in consequence of the remoteness of its position, is very unlikely to be assisted by private enterprise.

The numbers of native fishermen and boats within the range of this station, are as follows: 5375 men and boys, and 806 boats.

Another inducement to the establishment of three stations is, that any vessel going round with salt and tackle may readily bring enough for the three stations, and that this may be effected without making any considerable detour, as Belmullet lies intermediate between the two extreme stations which the Board propose as the most suitable.

In connexion with the present subject, it may be interesting to state here, that, during the recent tours of inspection made by the officers of the Board during this season, it has been ascertained that the prices of fresh fish are nearly as follows:—hake, one-sixth of a penny per lb.; cod, one-third of a penny per lb.; ling, one-third ditto; haddock, one-third ditto; pollock, one-sixth ditto.

Herrings are and have been very abundant. They are sold from 3s. to 5s. and 8s. per 1,200; and very little or no local exertion has been made to cure them; while the want of a sufficient supply of salt in remote localities has led to the loss or injury of considerable quantities of those taken.

With reference to the supply of salt which would be required for each of those stations, the Board express a hope that the Government will be able to send it to the destined places in vessels of their own; and thus save the expense of freight, harbour dues, &c., which would form a heavy item in the small fund to be dealt with in each case, and would, of course, add materially to the price at which the salt could be offered to the fishermen, while a still greater evil would arise from the delay consequent on the adoption of any other means of transit.

The Board propose, that about 100*l.* worth of salt be procured for each station; and three-fourths of the article to be of the usual coarse kind, called Liverpool or English salt, used for curing, and one-fourth Lisbon or St. Ubes'.

In order to expedite matters further, the Board sent an officer to Roundstone, and have succeeded in obtaining a store and yard tolerably well circumstanced for a curing station. The premises are near the town, and close to the shore; and are to be had for the sum of 20*l.* for six months, with a right of further tenantry at 1*l.* per month.

Under these circumstances, the Board are prepared to receive the salt at that station as soon as it may be sent; and if the three stations be approved of, this Board will undertake to be prepared for the reception of salt at the other places before its arrival.*

TREASURY MINUTE.

November 13, 1846.

WRITE to the Commissioners of Public Works, that their Lordships entirely approve of the measures which have been taken by them to give effect to the plan which has been resolved upon for the establishment of stations for curing fish on the west coast of Ireland; and that they are pleased to authorize the addition of a third station to the two previously contemplated, as recommended by them.

Transmit for the information of the Commissioners a copy of the minute of this Board dated the 23rd of October, and of the resolution of the Governors of the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, thereupon dated the 12th instant, from which the Commissioners will perceive that the Governors of the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund have placed the sum of 5,000*l.* at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of carrying out the plan described in Mr. Trevelyan's memorandum, dated the 16th ultimo.

Their Lordships desire that the Commissioners will furnish them with a statement of the establishment which they propose to form at each of the three stations of Killybegs, Belmullet, and Roundstone, and an estimate of the expense of every description connected therewith for the ensuing six months; and as the main object of Her Majesty's Government in forming these establishments under the superintendence of the Board of Works, is to shew by actual experiment that the curing of fish on the west coast of Ireland may be carried on with profit by private individuals, it is their Lordships' wish that the first arrangements should be made on the most moderate scale consistent with real efficiency, and that the operations may afterwards be conducted with all practicable attention to economy.

It appears to their Lordships to be desirable that Mr. Ffennell should attend at this office on his return from Scotland, and directions will then be given for the transmission in a Government vessel of a sufficient supply of the proper kinds of salt to the three curing stations.

The requisite issues will be made from the sum of 5,000*l.*, which has been placed at their Lordships' disposal, upon monthly estimates to be submitted by the Board of Works to this Board; and at the close of the first month, the estimate should be accompanied with a Report, and a store and cash account, as directed in the seventh paragraph of the memorandum, dated the 16th ultimo.

The Commissioners will report, as soon as they are prepared to do so, what arrangements they would recommend for the purpose of disposing of the fish after they have been cured, whether by periodical public sales to be held at the curing stations, or in some other manner.

Write to the Governors of the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, acknowledging the receipt of their resolution dated the 12th instant, and transmit for their information a copy of the Report of the Board of Works dated the 10th instant, and of this Minute, and state that the Paymaster of Civil Services has been directed to receive the sum of 5,000*l.*, which they have consented to place at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government for the purpose specified in Mr. Trevelyan's memorandum, dated the 16th ultimo.

Direct the Paymaster of Civil Services to receive a sum of 5,000*l.*, which will be paid to him by the Governors of the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, and to pay the same to the account of the Bank of Ireland at the Bank of England, to be placed to the account of the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland.

Acquaint the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland, and desire that he will carry the sum of 5,000*l.* in question to a separate account, to be entitled the Fish Curing Establishment Account, to be acted upon by him under the orders of this Board.

* For the detail of the proceedings in establishing the Curing Stations, see the Board of Works Monthly Reports, in the Board of Works Series of Papers.

MR. SMITH TO MR. PARKER.

Lombard Street, November 12, 1846.

I HAVE the honour, on the part of the governors of the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, to acknowledge your letter of the 26th October, enclosing a Memorandum from Mr. Trevelyan, and a copy of a Treasury Minute, dated 23rd October, 1846, in reference to the employment of a sum of 5000*l.*, granted by the Irish Relief Committee of 1822, for the encouragement of Fisheries on the west coast of Ireland.

I am directed to enclose for your information the copy of a resolution passed by the governors this day, and I have further to inform you that I shall be prepared forthwith to pay the sum of 5000*l.*, referred to in the enclosed resolutions, to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to be employed under their orders in the manner specified in Mr. Trevelyan's Memorandum.

ENCLOSURE.

At a Meeting of the Governors of the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, held at No. 74, King William-street, on Thursday, November 12, 1846:—

Resolved,—

THAT the governors approve of the proposal of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, communicated in Mr. Parker's letter of the 26th October, and in the accompanying printed Memorandum from Mr. Trevelyan, dated 16th October. The governors consider the appropriation in the manner proposed of the 5000*l.*, applied for by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, strictly in accordance with the spirit and meaning of the original grant, and readily comply with the recommendation of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, contained in their Lordships' Minute of the 23rd October, that the governors should pay over the said sum of 5000*l.*, to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to be employed in the manner and on the terms specified in the memorandum and letters above referred to,

MESSRS. HILLAS AND PEERS TO LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

*7, Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London, December 8, 1846.*

A COPY of the enclosed prospectus has been forwarded to a few members of Her Majesty's Government in the course of last week; and to the Secretaries of the Irish Relief Society, about a month ago.

In the "Times" of yesterday there appeared an article stating that it was the intention of the Government to establish four fishing Companies in the same parts contemplated in the enclosed prospectus.

As we have already dedicated a great deal of time, and have been at great pains and some expense, and have also made engagements, for the furtherance of this project, we respectfully request your Lordship to have the goodness to say whether, under all the circumstances, we ought to persevere; particularly as the article alluded to, in the "Times," is not explicit as to the manner in which it may be the intention of Her Majesty's Government to carry out their views.

ENCLOSURE.

(For Private Circulation.)

PROSPECTUS OF THE COAST OF IRELAND FISHING COMPANY. (Provisionally Registered.)

Capital 100,000*l.*, in 10,000 Shares of 10*l.* each. Deposit 1*l.* 1*s.* per Share.

Solicitor—H. D. ILBERTON, Esq., 7, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

THE north and north-west coast of Ireland is known to abound in fish in great and choice varieties, consisting principally in salmon, turbot, cod, haddock, mackerel, mullet, brill, ling, shell-fish, &c. &c., and, in the season, herring and mackerel. A reference to the various authors who have written on the subject will confirm this statement.

The promoters of this undertaking possess also many other valuable sources of knowledge on which their statistics are founded, especially the information of influential gentlemen having estates and residing near the different parts of the coast where it is proposed to establish the stations who give their unqualified opinion that such an undertaking is urgently required, and that it will prove highly remunerative to the shareholders, and beneficial to the poor inhabitants of the locality.

The prodigious quantities of fish to be found on this coast may, perhaps, be accounted for by the situation of Ireland with respect to the Atlantic, from the east of the tides towards this

Part of the coast in particular. With the cause, however, the promoters have little to do, except inasmuch as it confirms their observation and experience in respect to the exhaustless resources of this coast.

For centuries this field of inexhaustible wealth has been unexplored and totally neglected, except by a few resident fishermen, with wretched boats and worse equipments.

It is now proposed to establish a fishery to an extent of about 200 miles of coast, embracing all those parts which afford the greatest abundance of fish, and the choicest varieties.

The object of this undertaking is to turn to account these vast sources of wealth, by means of combination and capital.

The promoters are in possession of every information necessary for the undertaking, and their calculations are based on such grounds as can admit of no reasonable doubt.

The highly improved state of steam navigation and the rapid progress of railway enterprise will open facilities in finding markets of unlimited demand for the produce. It is calculated that by affording a constant supply of fresh fish to the various markets, at such a price as will insure a greatly increased consumption, an ample return on the capital will be secured, besides the large profits to be derived from supplying the home and foreign markets with salt and cured fish, which branch of trade alone will furnish a very considerable item in the returns.

In fact the promoters of this scheme have no hesitation in asserting that a net profit of 20 per cent. per annum on the capital will be realized, after allowing for all incidental expenses, insurances, losses, and contingencies, and 20 per cent. for wear and tear, &c., and deducting for salaries, wages, &c. &c.

The paid-up capital will be expended principally in the purchase of steam-boats for the transport of fish to the markets; in fishing-boats to be built expressly for the purpose; in nets, &c. &c.; and in the erection of stations along the coast, to consist of tanks, storehouses, salting, curing, and drying-houses, clerks' offices, and suitable dwelling-houses for the fishermen.

A code of regulations will be drawn up and printed, for the government of the Company and their servants, to which the fishermen to be employed will be required to subscribe.

It is proposed to employ those who are at present engaged in that pursuit on the spot, in preference to strangers, and none will be rejected who can show a good character for honesty and sobriety. By their connection with this Company their condition must be greatly improved, for their present mode of procuring a livelihood is, of necessity, very precarious.

Viewing the great want of food and employment in Ireland, in conjunction with the indisputable fact of these great and inexhaustible sources of both, this undertaking claims universal approval and patronage, as it cannot fail to confer many and important advantages in a national point of view, as well as highly remunerative returns to the Company.

It is now proposed to bring these great advantages into play in the most efficient manner consistent with a due regard to economy; and the promoters, basing their views and calculations on the surest evidence, and for the reason that no expense will be incurred for surveying, engineering, and other costly modes of proceeding indispensable in undertakings of another nature, are warranted in offering to all applicants for shares the following conditions, viz:—

That no responsibility or liability to loss shall be incurred by allottees paying their deposits on shares, up to the time of the first meeting of the shareholders, when the expenditure that shall then have been made (warranted not to exceed one shilling per share,) will be laid before the meeting for approval and reimbursement. The future views and plans of the Company will also be submitted for the approbation of the shareholders, and no further expense incurred without their approbation; so that if the majority of the shareholders should so determine, each shareholder will then and there be given authority to receive back his deposit-money without any deduction whatever, at which time a list or lists, signed by the bankers, of the names of all persons who shall have paid deposits on shares, with the respective sums so paid set opposite thereto, will be produced; which list or lists will attest that the total amount of such sums is then in their hands.

FLEMING HILLAR, Esq. } *Original Promoters.*
THOMAS PEERS, Esq. }

Applications for shares to be addressed, in the annexed form, to the Committee of Management, or to Mr. H. D. Iderton, the Solicitor to the Company, at his Offices, No. 7, Lincoln's Inn Fields, where any further information that may be required will be afforded.

Form of Application for Shares.

To the Committee of Management of "THE COAST OF IRELAND FISHING COMPANY."

GENTLEMEN,

I request that you will allot me _____ shares on the terms named in your prospectus, of 10*l.* each, in this Company; and I hereby undertake to accept the same, or any less number you may allot me, and to pay the deposit of 1*l.* 1*s.* per share, and all subsequent calls thereon, and to sign the necessary deed when required.

Signature (in full)
Business or Profession
Address
Private Residence (if any)
Reference
Address of Referee

Dated this _____

of _____

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The Hon. Lieut.-Colonel KEPPEL to MESSRS. HILLAS and PEERS.

Treasury, December 11, 1846.

IN reply to your letter of the 8th instant, enclosing a prospectus of a fishing Company to be established on the west coast of Ireland, and enquiring, with reference to an article in the "Times" stating that it was the intention of the Government to establish four fishing Companies in the same parts, whether, under such circumstances, you ought to persevere in your project, I am directed by Lord John Russell to state, that the measures in progress in Ireland for the encouragement of the fisheries, will be duly made known on the meeting of Parliament.

MR. WALKER to MR. THEVELYAN.

*Office of Public Works, Dublin,
December 29, 1846.*

I AM directed by the Board to acquaint you that they have received from the Messrs. Erichsen and Co., of London, an invoice of salt, forwarded by them to Roundstone, Belmullet, and Killybegs, by which it appears that the charge for freight is much higher than had been anticipated. This charge is—to Killybegs, 18s. per ton; to Belmullet, 18s. to 19s.; and to Roundstone, 19s. to 20s. per ton.

In communicating with you on the 10th of November, the Board stated as follows:—"With reference to the supply of salt, which would be required for each of these stations, the Board express a hope that the Government will be able to send it to the destined places in vessels of their own, and thus save the expense of freight, harbour dues, &c., which would form a heavy item in the small fund to be dealt with in each case, and would, of course, add materially to the price at which the salt could be offered to the fishermen; while a still greater evil would arise from the delay consequent on the adoption of any other means of transit."

The Board are anxious to know whether the freight is to be charged to the fund advanced to these curing stations, as they are led to presume, from the circumstance of private vessels being hired; and also, whether the payment of freight is to be made on delivery at the station, or by remittance to the Messrs. Erichsen.

THE TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 1, 1847.

Write to the Commissioners of Public Works that no Government steamer was available at the time for the conveyance of the salt from Liverpool; but, under all the circumstances of the case, their Lordships will relieve the Curing Establishment Fund from this charge.

State that the freight is payable on delivery of the cargo; but if the masters of the vessels will consent to receive an order for the amount on Messrs. Erichsen and Co., 110, Fenchurch-street, through whom the vessels were engaged, the payment may be conveniently made, without any advance or transfer on account.

Their Lordships desire that this opportunity may be taken of repeating their wish that the outlay connected with the curing establishments should be conducted with strict regard to economy, and that an accurate account of the income and expenditure should be furnished at the periods directed, unless it should be found that it would be attended with inconvenience, with reference to the nature of the undertaking, to render an account at the end of each month, in which case a quarterly account may be substituted.

Mr. WALKER to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
December 31, 1846.

I AM instructed by the Board to inform you that they have completed their arrangements for the establishment of the fish-curing stations approved of by the Treasury at Roundstone, Belmullet, and Killybegs, and that they are ready to commence operations on the necessary funds being placed at their disposal.

In compliance with your instructions, the Board beg to submit the accompanying estimate of the expenses of the establishment at each station for the first six months, amounting to 407*l.* 9*s.*, exclusive of the capital required for the purchase of fish; and they also beg to suggest that 2,000*l.* may be placed at their disposal for the present expenditure.

ENCLOSURE.

FISHERIES.—CURING HOUSES.

Estimate of outlay at each Station for Six Months.

	£.	s.	d.
Salary of agent at 2 <i>l.</i> per week	52	0	0
Travelling expenses of same to and from station	5	0	0
Salary of curer at 30 <i>s.</i> per week	39	0	0
Travelling expenses of same to and from station	8	0	0
Rent of stores	25	0	0
Cooper's tools, knives, bench, &c.	13	4	0
20 molasses casks, at 6 <i>s.</i> each	6	0	0
Boiler	1	10	0
Staves for barrels for dried fish	10	0	0
200 herring barrels, at 3 <i>s.</i> each	30	0	0
50 bundles of hoops, at 3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per bundle	8	15	0
2 bundles of coopering rushes	1	0	0
Fuel for smoking-house	12	0	0
Iron hoops, 2 cwt.	1	0	0
Salt	150	0	0
Fishing-tackle	25	0	0
Fitting up yard and curing-house	20	0	0
	£407	9	0

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

January 5, 1847.

My Lords refer to their Minute of 13th November last on this subject, and to the letter to the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland, of 16th of the same month, informing him that the sum of 5,000*l.* would be placed to his account by Mr. Sargent, to whom it would be paid by the Governors of the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund for the establishment of more curing stations.

Write to the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland, referring him to the said letter, and desiring that he will, out of the sum of 5000*l.* placed to a separate account in his books for this service, pay to the account of the Commissioners of Public Works at the Bank of Ireland the sum of 2000*l.*, to be applied by them for this service.

Acquaint the Commissioners of Public Works with the above direction, in answer to their letter of 31st December last, and desire that they will transmit accounts of the disposal of the sum of 2000*l.* now advanced, for the information of the Governors of the Reproductive Loan Fund, in the manner directed in their Lordships' Minute of 13th November last and the memorandum of 16th October last.

Transmit copies of this letter and of its enclosure to the Governors of the Reproductive Loan Fund for their information, and acquaint them that my Lords have directed 2,000*l.* out of the sum of 5,000*l.* deposited by them on 25th October, to be advanced to the Commissioners of Public Works and Fisheries in Ireland, to defray the expenses of the fish-curing establishments mentioned therein, and have directed the said Commissioners to furnish accounts of the expenditure thereof, which will be transmitted to them for their information.

Mr. REDINGTON to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Dublin Castle, January 1, 1847.

I AM directed by the Lord-Lieutenant to request the favourable consideration of the Lords of the Treasury to the statements in the enclosed copy of a memorial from Galway, for the establishment of fishery-curing stations on that coast.

ENCLOSURE.

To his Excellency John William, Earl of Beaulieu, Lord-Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

The humble Memorial of the Inhabitants of the Town and County of the Town of Galway, in the Town Court House assembled,

MOST HUMBLY SHOWETH,

That your Memorialists have learned with unfeigned gratification that your Excellency has turned your attention to the fisheries of the west coast of Ireland, and resolved on authorizing the Commissioners of Fisheries to establish three curing-houses along the coast, at which aid and encouragement is to be given in various ways to persons occupied in catching and curing fish.

That while your Memorialists feel deeply thankful for the aid that is thus afforded, they are constrained to observe that the attempt is, in their humble opinion, too limited; that the experiment upon which so much must eventually depend is tried on too small a scale; and that to give it anything like a fair trial to afford anything like aid on so extensive a coast, these establishments should be at least doubled, and that one of them should be set up at this, the oldest, the most extensive, and, with respect both to the fishery ground and the means of sending the cured fish into the interior of the kingdom, the most advantageously situated fishing-station on the western coast of Ireland.

That without wishing, or intending to say, one word against fixing one of these establishments at Roundstone, which is between 50 and 60 miles from this, your Memorialists, in justice to the fishermen of the Claddagh, are constrained to observe that they are patient and hardy at sea, a labouring race, whose loyalty is proverbial, whose virtues are their own, and whose faults are in the main attributable to the want of encouragement for their trade, by which so much wealth is annually lost to Ireland.

Your Memorialists must further beg leave respectfully to observe, that your Excellency's benevolent and wise experiment might be tried with less risk of failure, and a greater amount of good here, where there are at least 3500 entirely dependant on the fisheries, accustomed to it from their birth, attached to it from habit, and wanting but the encouragement of a steady market to establish them in the habits of industry, perseverance, and frugality, essential to successful enterprise.

Your Memorialists therefore most humbly, but earnestly, implore your Excellency to instruct the Fishery Commissioners to enlarge their plan for encouraging the fisheries of the western coast; to establish six, instead of only three, curing-houses; and to fix one of them in this town. And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed)

JOHN IRELAND, *Chairman.*

TREASURY MINUTE ON the above.

January 5, 1847.

Write to Mr. Redington, that the curing establishments which have been formed under the direction of this Board in Ireland, are, for the present, merely experimental, and it was at first proposed that only two should be formed for the purpose of testing the advantage of the plan; but afterwards a third was added at the suggestion of the Board of Works; and their Lordships are of opinion that the experiment could not be fairly made, if any further extension were to be given to these establishments at present.

Their Lordships are also of opinion that the business of curing fish ought to be carried on by private enterprise in the town of Galway, and that it is doubtful, whether, under any circumstances, it could be proper for the Government to interfere in the manner proposed at that place.

Transmit a copy of this Letter, Enclosure and Minute, to the Commissioners of Public Works, for their information.

MR. MULVANY to MR. TREVELYAN.

London, January 17, 1847.

ANNEXED I beg leave to send you a copy of our instructions to the agents of the fish curing stations on the west coast of Ireland, with a copy of one of the notices which we have ordered to be circulated in the neighbourhood of each station to point out to the fishermen and others the course of proceedings to be adopted, and the reason for so doing. In our monthly reports* you will find the details of our proceedings up to the 9th instant.

ENCLOSURE.

Instructions for Agents at Curing Stations.

It is necessary that the agent at each curing station should clearly comprehend the policy and objects which the Board have in view, and the principle to be observed in carrying out these objects.

The objects sought to be effected are:—

- 1st. To afford employment and fair remuneration to the fishermen, by purchasing the fish which they may take, thus insuring to them, as far as possible, a steady daily market.
- 2ndly. By a regular market to promote an increased capture of fish; and thus provide an additional quantity of cheap food for the country.
- 3rdly. To render that food valuable and available to the fullest extent, by adopting such modes of cure as may be required to preserve it; and such also as will suit the demands for its use, either near the coasts, or in the markets of the interior.

The foregoing being the leading objects of the Board, the following instructions, as to the purchasing of fish, are to be strictly adhered to; observing, as stated in the papers already furnished to the agents, that the intention of establishing these stations is chiefly for the purchase and curing of "round fish," in order thereby to remedy, in some degree, the evils which arise from the variable nature of the herring fishery.

When the herring fishery occurs, there will, generally speaking, be found sufficient purchasers to take off the supply without the intervention of the Board's agents; but as upon the first arrival of herrings near the station there may be some deficiency of demand, and as it may be desirable to introduce improved modes of curing or provide a small stock of this fish for smoking, the Board do not object to a small amount of capital being, under such circumstances, devoted to this purpose, taking care, although prices are not herein defined for such purchases, to be guided by the same principles as are set forth herein with reference to round fish.

Instructions as to Prices to be paid at Stations for Green Fish for Curing.

The fish is to be purchased only at such prices as will yield a fair profit when cured.

To render the matter simple, and interfere least with the confirmed habits of the people, ling, cod, hake, pollock, and haddock are to be bought by the dozen.

The fish are to be divided into three classes.

1st Class.—Ling, cod, hake, and pollock of all sizes above 18 inches in length from the back of the head to the butt of the tail.

2nd Class.—Ling, cod, hake, and pollock of sizes of 18 inches, and not less than 14 inches; some measurement.

3rd Class.—Ling, cod, hake, and pollock of all sizes under 14 inches fit for curing.

For each class of these fish it is proposed to fix two prices—one, the highest, to be given by the agents in periods when the supply is small, and the demand by other purchasers nearly sufficient to take off the supply;—the other, the lowest, to be given, no matter how abundant the supply or deficient the demand. Between these prices the agents will be at liberty to use their discretion, according to the circumstances of the case, and the instructions impressed upon them as to the objects in forming these establishments.

As the Board are not about to buy fish when the demand for it in the fresh state is equal to the supply, their agents are not, under such circumstances, to purchase unless parties shall be willing to sell at the prices fixed. On the other hand, when the supply greatly exceeds the demand by other purchasers, the agents should be ready to take at a price not less than the proposed lowest price, every fish that can be had, as far as the means at their disposal will permit; the agent using a sound discretion as to the precise price to be given between the highest and the lowest, according to the peculiar circumstances of the case, the state of the weather, the presence or absence of buyers, and all the other circumstances and peculiarities which affect markets, and especially fish markets, learning, on all occasions, to as remunerative a price to the fishermen as would be consistent with insuring a full and fair profit on the cured article, including all expenses. The agent is at the same time to remember that as a great object is to set an example to private traders and lead to the establishment of permanent curing stations for the benefit of the fishermen, it is of the greatest importance to the fishermen themselves that the fish should be sold at a price that would insure a fair profit to the curer, and so establish a steady daily market.

[Here follow the prices.]

* See Board of Works Series.

The agent's duty is to produce a market, not by the amount of his purchases, or the height of his prices, but by his readiness to purchase, regularly and steadily, whenever parties are willing to take those prices.

Scales and weights having been provided for each station, it is directed that all fish purchased shall, upon its being brought to the curing station, be weighed in bulk according to its class, and the weight duly registered, so as to pave the way towards the adoption of a fixed price for the purchase of fresh fish for curing by the stone or cwt. at equally remunerative prices as those fixed upon by the dozen.

It is also directed that all cured fish leaving the store shall be weighed in similar classes, the weight duly registered, and the total weights, of both fresh fish bought, and cured fish sold, reported to the Board every week and month.

The agents should be watchful to ascertain as nearly as they can the probable amount of supply for the purchase of fish for each coming week, that they may have sufficient funds in hand to meet it. This may not, in the commencement, be easy to accomplish; but after a little experience, may be attained without difficulty.

The agents should explain to the fishermen and impress upon them that their interests lie in exporting large quantities, for which they will find purchasers, inasmuch as the quantity they can sell at fair though low prices will remunerate them far better than the high prices they only occasionally obtain for a few fish.

The Board rely upon their agents and fish-curers earnestly and zealously devoting their whole time to carrying into effect these instructions with the same spirit and feeling as regards industry and attention which they would adopt if conducting this important and useful undertaking for their own private benefit.

The agents should be very careful not to interfere or mix themselves up with any local differences or party matters, nor on any account to transact business for any party whatsoever except the Board. If any undue interference with them should be attempted, or any suggestions with regard to a departure from the policy prescribed should be pressed upon them, they should avoid engaging in any debate upon the subject, and simply state that they had prescribed duties to perform, by which they were bound; at the same time they should courteously hear all communications, and endeavour to glean from all parties every useful information affecting the fisheries.

If any matters arise upon which the agents are not herein specially instructed, they are to report the same to the Board for instructions.

As regards all matters of detail connected with the buying and curing of fish, the agents are, for the present, to communicate with William Fennell, Esq., Inspector of Fisheries, who is fully instructed as to the principles which the Board wish to have carried out; and who will constantly communicate directly with the agents, and frequently visit the stations.

The agents are to send up, by every Monday's post, their weekly accounts, on the prescribed forms, directed to the Secretary of the Board in Dublin; marking on the left hand corner of the envelope, in all communications, the words "Fish Curing." A monthly abstract account for the information of the Treasury, according to the form and instructions annexed, is also to be regularly forwarded so as to arrive in Dublin on or before the 5th of each month.

All transactions whatever with purchasers or sellers are to be strictly cash transactions; the agents and their sureties being held responsible for any losses arising from any breach of this rule made without the sanction, in writing, of the Secretary of the Board.

Funds will be placed to the credit of the agents at the nearest banks, and they will be enabled to obtain the necessary supplies of cash by drafts of their own upon these banks.

Whenever the agent for the protection of cash in his possession, and by reason of the remoteness of the station from the bank, shall deem it requisite, the Board will furnish a suitable cash-box to be kept at any police station, or other secure place.

It is of vital importance to the success of the whole measure that the accounts be kept with the utmost accuracy, and in such detail, both as to weights and price, as will enable a clear and satisfactory account of the cost, and the profit and loss on all transactions, to be rendered at any moment it is required. Great care must be taken to enter up regularly the day-book, and post the ledger, and all purchases and sales should be entered in the detail required in docket-books to be provided for the purpose.

All persons employed in the curing station or business connected therewith are to be paid, where practicable, by task for the quantity of work done, or proportionably for the time devoted industriously to the business for which they shall be engaged at a fair remunerating price, but not much exceeding the rate of the country in any case.

Persons employed with any degree of regularity are to be paid weekly; persons by task, or for the performance of any particular service, when that service is performed.

Receipts and proper vouchers are to be taken for all payments, and the names of all persons employed in works of labour, &c., are to be regularly entered in the pay lists, and their receipts taken thereon.

The agents and fish curers will, as far as practicable, without deranging the progress of their business, afford every information to persons desirous of seeing the operations of curing, so soon as the people shall have been somewhat trained to the pursuit; and it is particularly desirable that some active, intelligent young men, who have received some education, should be trained in the proper modes of coopersing and curing, so that when fully instructed they may be removed to other stations if necessary.

The Board also direct that whenever the fishermen or other persons in the neighbourhood shall be anxious to adopt the best modes of curing, every facility should be afforded them; and

that, where it can be done without trenching on the proper business of the station, such men shall be shown practically the mode of fitting up the necessary means of curing and drying or smoking the fish in their own houses.

Salt.

For the benefit of poor fishermen, labourers and others of good character, who shall be disposed to cure their own fish (according to printed instructions to be given gratis at the station), salt is to be sold by the agents in small quantities at 2d. per stone.

In selling salt to those who may require it, care must be taken that no persons except those who want to cure fish shall obtain it, as shopkeepers and small traders might attempt to obtain it for the purpose of selling it again, which would defeat the object intended; the quantity sold to each person should be limited to four stones at one time.

Fishing Tackle.

A small quantity of fishing tackle and gear will be furnished for each station, to be sold for cash in small quantities, and only to fishermen who require such aid. The price at which the article is to be sold by retail is to cover the wholesale price, the cost of carriage, and 5 per cent. thereon to cover loss and risk.

Sale of Cured Fish.

The price at which this article is to be sold should be regulated by the ordinary rules of such traffic, the market price for a similar article being the primary guide; but where, by economic arrangements, a covering price for the article, including all the expenses of its purchase, cure, the establishment of the station, the rent of the stores, &c., with an allowance for profit sufficient to induce a private trader to enter on the speculation, can be fixed at a lower rate than that of the market, it is to be adopted and acted upon; the detail calculations, with reasons, being reported to the Commissioners.

When fish shall have been cured, it will be desirable to dispose of it as quickly as possible in the immediate locality of each station; but if the demand be not sufficient for the supply on hand, purchasers must be sought for in the neighbouring towns or other markets in the interior, according to arrangements which will be subsequently, from time to time, communicated when required.

By order,

JOSEPH WALKER, *Secretary.*

Office of Public Works, Dublin, January, 1847.

NOTICE.

DEEP SEA FISHERIES.

Fish Curing Station at Killybegs.

THE Commissioners of Public Works, with a view to encourage the fishermen by the formation of a steady market, have established a curing station, by means of a small reproductive loan fund, at Killybegs. An object of great importance will be to set an example in the mode of usefully and profitably curing fish, so as to increase the stock of food and induce private traders to follow the same course, and thus permanently benefit the fishermen, upon whose industry, steady conduct, and fair dealing, the continuance of such beneficial establishments will mainly depend.

For this purpose the fish will be purchased at such prices only as will return a fair profit on the whole expenditure, when cured and brought to market for sale.

The prices at which, according to circumstances, the fish will be purchased by the agent, have been fixed by the Commissioners, and he will not buy at higher nor lower prices than those fixed, nor will he buy when carriers or other buyers are prepared to give the same prices as he is authorized to pay, but he will always be prepared to purchase with ready money perfectly fresh and sound fish for curing, to the extent which the means placed at his disposal will permit.

A small supply of fishing-tackle will be sold for ready money at moderate prices.

For the benefit of poor fishermen, labourers, and others of good character, who shall be disposed to cure their own fish (according to instructions which may be had gratis at the station), and who shall not be shopkeepers or traders, salt will be sold in small quantities at the rate of 2d. per stone.

Cured fish will also be sold at the station at moderate fixed prices.

By order of the Commissioners of Public Works,

JOHN C. KENNAN, *Agent.*

Killybegs Fish Curing Station, January, 1847.

FISHERIES—SCOTLAND.

Sir JOHN McNEILL to Sir GEORGE GREY.

*Board of Supervision, Edinburgh,
September 25, 1846.*

I would venture to suggest for your consideration, whether it might not be desirable to take advantage of the present emergency to revive the fisheries, especially the white fisheries, in some parts of the distressed districts. At a time not very remote, these fisheries were considerable. When the manufacture of kelp became a more profitable occupation, the fisheries were neglected; and when the reduction of the duty on foreign alkali in 1823-4 destroyed the kelp trade, the generation of fishermen had died out—the habit and the skill bad in a great measure been lost. The proprietors were impoverished and dispirited, and the fisheries have not to any considerable extent been revived. The people are poor and indolent, and such partial attempts as have been made to revive the fisheries have not been very successful. I am inclined, however, to think that in the present emergency they might be roused to more active exertions, and I cannot doubt that the revival of that trade would be of the greatest advantage, present and prospective, to the Western Highlands and Islands generally. The aggregate amount of food would be increased, a profitable occupation would be provided during the present distress, and a prospect opened for increasing employment in future.

The Fishery Board in Scotland, which has an extensive agency on all parts of the coast and in the islands, has at its disposal about 8000*l.* a-year granted by Parliament to encourage the fisheries. This sum it expends chiefly in aiding proprietors in erecting piers and shelter for boats, and partly in aiding fishermen to repair boats, nets, &c. It occurs to me that additional funds placed at the disposal of that Board might enable it in a noiseless way to extend its aid so as to avoid the evils of active interference on the part of the Government, and yet in such a manner as might make the present distress contribute to the encouragement of a valuable trade, which has been lost to the very districts in which it would be of so much consequence to promote it. This matter could not be in better hands than those of the Fishery Board, and it may be worthy of your consideration whether they should not be consulted on the subject. I explained these views to Sir Edward Coffin, and requested him to direct his attention to the matter in the course of his inquiries.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir T. DICK LAURER.

Treasury, September 29, 1846.

SEVERAL suggestions have been made for increasing the stock of food under the present circumstances of the country, by taking measures for encouraging an increased supply from the fisheries; and the mode of effecting this object, best adapted to the pressing nature of the emergency, appears to be that which has been actually adopted by the Duke of Sutherland on the sea-board of his estate, namely, to offer premiums for the largest quantities of fish taken and cured during the remainder of the season.

The herring fishery is, I understand, too near its close to be acted upon with effect in this or in any other way, but the white fishery may, it is supposed, be still stimulated to more than usual efforts.

Sir George Grey has requested Sir John McNeill to communicate with you on this subject, and it is hoped that you will be able to concert a plan with
[P.] F

him, either by applying the Duke of Sutherland's practice to all the Scotch fisheries to which it is applicable, including those on the coast of Sutherlandshire, or in any other mode that may be considered more advisable; and you may be assured that any moderate sum which you and Sir John McNeill may be of opinion would be really usefully employed for this purpose in this extraordinary emergency, would be provided by the Treasury, in addition to the annual grant for the encouragement of the fisheries.

I shall send a copy of this letter to Mr. Loch, and will request him to put you at once in possession of a copy of the notice issued by the Duke of Sutherland, and of any further useful information which his experience may furnish.

Sir T. D. LAUDER to Mr. TREVELYAN.

*Boards of Manufactures and of Fisheries,
Edinburgh, October 1, 1846.*

I HAVE this moment received yours of the 29th September, in which you inform me that several suggestions have been made for increasing the stock of food under the present circumstances of the country, by taking measures for encouraging an increased supply from the fisheries, and stating that the plan adopted by the Duke of Sutherland of offering premiums for the largest quantities of fish taken and cured during the remainder of the season, appears to be the best adapted to the pressing nature of the emergency.

I may mention that this step was suggested by myself in the Report which I made to the Board of Fisheries, after returning from my official voyage of inspection of 1845, when I made a very close and complete survey of the whole of the Duke of Sutherland's extensive coasts, and transmitted to him afterwards a copy of all my suggestions for the improvement and extension of his fisheries. And in July and August last, when I had the good fortune to enjoy a great deal of his Grace's society in Sutherland, we had an opportunity of discussing the subject of my Report in daily conversations. These suggestions, however, were not made with any reference to the prospect of want arising, for up to the 14th of August, when I left the Duke at Dunrobin Castle, the potatoes throughout the whole of Sutherland were so very flourishing as to promise abundance, and no want was then anticipated.

They were made entirely with a view of fostering and extending the fisheries already existing on the Sutherland coasts, and although it appears to me that this may be a most favourable time for bringing my suggestions into operation with a reasonable prospect of success, and that this portion of them which regards the premiums may even be of some importance for the present purpose, yet I do not think that it will be generally applicable for meeting the urgent and extensive evil we have to encounter. The very nature of the Duke's notice, of which his Grace sent me copies, implies that native fisheries *do exist* upon his coasts in some degree; though, in reference to the north and west coasts more particularly, they are comparatively so indolently pursued, that the application of some encouraging stimulus is required to bring them, and the mode of cure up to that high degree of productiveness and excellence which they are capable of reaching. But any such premiums would be offered in vain in places such as Tiree, Ardnarmerchan, or the Ross of Mull, where boats and fishing gear, and the higher knowledge of the science of fishing and curing, may be said to be altogether wanting.

Then it appears to me that what is most necessary in the present emergency is to procure *immediate* food for the people, which will not be so well accomplished by their catching and curing for a premium to be bestowed at the end of a given time.

I think that herring fishing too, which starts up precariously, and the continuance of which cannot always be counted upon at any one place, may, together with the provision of nets for its prosecution, be thrown out of view for our present purpose, especially whilst we are considering the case of places so destitute of fishery means as those above exemplified.

I think that our great object should be to see that boats, fishing lines, and

hooks are provided for the people of such places, so that they may be able to fish in the seas opposite to their own dwellings, for, as even a child can drop a hook and line over the side of a boat, so as to assist in catching as many fish of some kind or other as a family may require to consume, this supply of food would thus come promptly and easily home to them.

I have had several conversations with Sir John McNeill on this subject, in which we seem to be entirely agreed. It may require some inquiry and consideration in order to mature the best plan for accomplishing this object; but I may in the meanwhile state generally, that the principle on which Government money was given for the construction of Highland roads and bridges by the Parliamentary Commissioners may be found advisable for adoption for the present purpose; that is, the proprietor of the estate always meeting Government with a like sum to that which it may advance, and care being always taken to see that the whole money is fully and properly expended. I fear that in *this department* of the proposed relief there can be no hope held out to the Government of repayment of capital, as may be the case with money advanced for the drainage or improvement of land.

Contenting myself for the present with having thus given you the first hurried sketch of what occurs to me in regard to this matter, written in the midst of official interruption, I beg to assure you that my best attention and exertions shall be bestowed, in co-operation with Sir John McNeill, with whom I feel a pleasure in being associated, to carry out the wishes of the Government in the best and most satisfactory manner. I have already sent an order to Mr. Stewart, commander of the Board of Fisheries' cutter, "*The Princess Royal*," now in Loch Fyne, to come here directly, with a view of giving him instructions to visit in that vessel such places as Sir John McNeill and I may think necessary, in order quietly, and without fracas, to gather information as to the number of boats, and the extent of provision of lines and hooks, that the people in each particular place already possess; a species of preliminary information which you will see is absolutely essential before proceeding further. In the meanwhile I shall keep the whole matter so secret, that I shall not even acquaint the gentlemen in the office of the two Boards with the subject of our correspondence.

Sir T. DICK LAUDER to Mr. TREVELYAN.

*Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, October 27, 1846.*

I BELIEVE I made you aware that until Mr. Stewart, the commander of the "*Princess Royal*" cutter shall have completed his survey of the coasts of the Ross of Mull, Iona, Tiree, and Ardnamurchan, we can come to no precise judgment in regard to what may be required to meet the destitution which has arisen, and although some little time must still elapse before his survey can be completed, and his full report made, I think it right to send you, under this cover, a copy of a letter I have received from him, which shows that we may have some appliances at our command in Tiree, in respect to boats. I am desirous to question him very particularly as to those natural harbours, or havens, he speaks of, which might be improved, and made useful by clearing out, and I have accordingly written to him by this post, addressed to Oban, to direct him, on returning there after his survey, to leave his vessel there, and be the bearer of his own report to me here.

Harbour works, although they may be the means of improving the productiveness of the fisheries for future years, and therefore by no means to be thrown out of consideration, can do little in mitigating the immediate evil, for if they are to be properly and substantially constructed, the workmen employed must be experienced in such works, so that in a large sum paid for a harbour, but a very small portion could fall to the share of the unskilful natives of the neighbouring coast. But wherever any improvement in harbour accommodation can be made by quarrying out rocks, and still more by excavations of stones or gravel, they may be made highly and generally available for the employment of the people.

ENCLOSURE.

Mr. STEWART to Sir T. DICK LAUDER.

*"Princess Royal," Lochlaigh, the Ross of Mull,
October 14, 1846.*

I CAME in here last evening from Tieve, having been three days engaged going round the coast of the island, inspecting the fishing boats, having found upwards of one hundred fit to be put to sea for the take of codfish, after the greatest number of them being supplied with sails, oars, &c., and fishing gear. The number of available fishing boats has exceeded my expectations. The fishers never think of going to sea for cod, until the month of February, and until that time they will be exceedingly ill off for any kind of employment. There are several small boat harbours, which might afford work to them by blasting rocks, and clearing away loose stones, &c. The potato crop has totally failed in the island, meal is served out to the really poor, and to those that are able to pay at prime cost by the Duke. I did not fall in with his Grace's factors during my stay, and had no communication with clergymen*. Indeed every one with whom I fell in took me for a fish curer.

I will get on with the boats in Ross as quick as I can.

Mr. LOCH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Uppar, October 4, 1846.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, with the copy of a letter addressed by you to Sir Thomas Dick Lauder. I shall be most happy, as far as I can, to aid your wishes.

I think that we now know the extent of the potato disease.

In the western parishes of Assynt, Edderachyllis, and Durness, including the Parliamentary districts of Stoir in the first, and of Kinlochberrie in the last of these parishes, the failure, I fear, is very great. But a very excellent herring fishing has, and does still exist in Loch Glendluie, between Assynt and Edderachyllis, which has afforded the people of these two parishes much and very productive labour.

In the parishes of Tongue, Far, and Reay, including the Parliamentary district of Strathy in the second of those parishes, the potatoes are generally good; in some places they have failed entirely. The whole is not much under an average.

In the eight Sutherland parishes proper, there is every variety of case, the later districts being the best: the result is, that above half an average crop exists.

From the two last districts many young men are south at the railroads, and in the last district labour is in demand. In the first, or Scourie district, works are preparing, and ready to be begun too when the time arrives for such extraordinary aid being required; but it has been intimated to the young men that they must go south to labour. At the commencement of the year the Duke of Sutherland authorised the factors of the Scourie and Tongue districts to advance such young men 1*l*. each on their note of hand and another's. The men in the Scourie district preferred remaining at home.

We say nothing of what has been done besides in the way of preparation, in case need shall arise, for reasons you can well imagine.

Our beautiful weather continues; it cannot last much longer.

I am happy to say that arrangements have been made with a Shetland Company to fish from Rispond, on the north coast, for cod, &c., with six boats; they are to get every encouragement.

I send you the only copies I have of our notices. I have sent a copy of them in duplicate to Colonel Jones as you desire.

I have written to Tongue and Scourie for such other information as Messrs. Horsburgh and M'iver can give: they are the local factors, and excellent gentlemen.

* This is in obedience to my directions, for parish ministers are too apt to encourage, if not to create applicants.—T.D.L.

ENCLOSURE.

To Fishermen.

His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, being anxious to Encourage the
FISHING OF COD AND LING
 On the Coast of the Parishes of
ASSYNT AND STOER,

DURING THE WINTER AND SPRING MONTHS,

Hereby gives Notice that a prize, to consist of a suitable boat, with bare, sails, and rudder, and a complete set of long lines, will be given to the native crew who shall prosecute the White Fishing with greatest industry and success on the coasts of these parishes from the 15th of October to the 15th of April next, according to rules and regulations to be ascertained on application to Mr. M'Iver, at Scourie.

Scourie, September 12, 1846.

COD AND LING FISHING.

With the view of encouraging the White Fishing on the North Coast of Sutherland, prizes will be given by the Duke of Sutherland to the crews of such "Native Boats" as shall take and deliver for cure, within the Tongue district, the greatest number of cod, ling, and hake, from 1st September next to 1st May, 1847.

The prizes, two in number, will each consist of a well built Cod-Boat, with oars, sails, and materials for a set of great lines; and the district will be divided into two distinct divisions, in each of which a prize will be given, viz:—

First Division.—From the Eastern boundary of the County to Armadale inclusive.

Second Division.—From Armadale to Portness inclusive.

The House of Tongue, August 25, 1846.

ROBERT HORSBURGH.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir JOHN M'NEILL.

October 31, 1846.

I HAVE the pleasure of sending you three copies of a memorandum of a plan we are about to adopt in Ireland for drawing an increased supply of food from the fisheries during the present scarcity, and setting the example of a better mode of curing fish. It occurs to me that this plan may not be unsuited to the circumstances of Tiree, and that if it were adopted there by the Marquis of Lorne, it might be productive of useful results.

REPORT of a PLAN proposed for providing for the DESTITUTION now prevailing in certain Maritime Districts on the West Coast of SCOTLAND.

With reference to what I have already stated in my former letters, I have now to report that the maritime districts, regarding which the most pressing applications have been made in consequence of present or apprehended destitution, are—

The Ross of Mull,	Coll, and
Iona,	Arndnamurchan.
Tiree, .	

The three first of these belong to his Grace the Duke of Argyle, the fourth to Mr. MacLean of Coll, and the last to Sir James Miles Riddell, Bart.

Besides these, the districts of

Moidart,	Morrer, and
Arisaig,	Kuoydart,

have made application, consequent on apprehended distress.

And hints have also reached me that want is likely to arise in

The parish of Latheron, on the east coast of Caithness

These must not be considered as the only districts where the pressure of destitution from the failure of the potato crop has arisen, or is likely to arise. But as I have the satisfaction to report that at Campbeltown, in Cantyre, the people themselves are making laudable exertions to prosecute the fisheries for making up the deficiency in the supply of human food, and as it is understood that the proprietors of Islay (see Mr. Robertson's letter in the Appendix,

marked No. 1), of the Lewis, and of Sutherland, are prepared to meet the evil with their accustomed liberality, it is to be hoped that the other landholders whose people are similarly circumstanced may feel themselves stimulated to adopt measures of an equally satisfactory nature; and it is very desirable that no step may be taken which may in any way damp such a hope.

The noble proprietor of the Ross of Mull, and of the islands of Iona and Tiree, stands under the distressing circumstances of having a very large and even in ordinary years, a most unproductive population to deal with in these parts. I, therefore, consider that his is a case in which the aid of Government in the shape of affording such encouragement to the fisheries as may hold out a fair prospect of their permanent extension, may be fairly given in support of his private exertions; and it is possible that the Coll and Ardnamurchan properties may be considered as in a similar condition. But in order to bring myself into a state of information sufficient to enable me to offer any opinion as to the manner in which this aid can be given, it appeared to be absolutely necessary, in the first place, to ascertain as accurately as possible to what extent fishing-boats and gear now exist as appliances for the object in view. I therefore despatched Mr. John Stewart, commander of the Board of Fisheries' cutter, the "Princess Royal," with the instructions contained in the letter No. 2 in the Appendix.

This very trustworthy and excellent officer of the Board having lost not a moment in proceeding to execute these instructions, his letter and report, of which copies will be found in the Appendix, marked Nos. 3 and 4, were transmitted to me on the 27th ult., from which I am glad to perceive that the number of boats at our disposal is much greater than I anticipated when I wrote my letter to you of the 1st of the same month, although they are at present altogether inefficient from their want of proper oars, nets, and other rigging.

With this Mr. Stewart likewise transmitted the materials for the enlarged tabular view, which is given in the Appendix, marked No. 5, from which was formed the more condensed abstract, marked No. 6 in the Appendix, which shows that the sum of 3002*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* will be required for the active employment in the fisheries of

532 hands in the Ross of Mull,
123 hands in Iona.
400 hands in Tiree.
21 hands in Coll.
340 hands in Ardnamurchan.

In all 1415 hands.

And in the calculation that each of these hands may either directly or indirectly contribute to the support of a family, it is hoped that it may be fairly estimated that the active employment of so many individuals will do much, not only towards affording general relief to the whole population under present distressing circumstances, but likewise to produce a permanent improvement on the fisheries in these quarters, and consequently on the future condition of the people, by the great increase that must thence arise in the future production of human food.

As it seems to me to be impossible, in the case of these five places or districts, to look for any repayment of any monies which Government may advance for the object in question, it would appear to be essential that one-half of the above-mentioned expenditure should be provided by the proprietors. This would not only be fair in consideration of the permanent benefit that must accrue to their population from the prospective improvement which is likely to be produced on their fisheries by the measures to be adopted, but it is absolutely necessary that such a payment should be made on their part in order to secure their co-operation, as a check to every description of improper expenditure of the aggregate sum to be employed.

On the part of the Fishery Board, I should consider it right to send one, if not more officers, to superintend the distribution of the anchors, cables, oars, sails, and rigging of the boats to be fitted out, and of the hooks and lines to be given to their crews. In my opinion these articles should be given to the fishermen gratis, and entirely as if from the fund placed at the disposal of the Board of Fisheries by Act of Parliament, for aiding in the repair of the boats

of poor fishermen; and as the fishing population of Scotland have no means of knowing the limited extent of this fund, or the limited powers which the Board has over it, they can have no means of learning that it has pleased Government to enlarge or extend either, and so the present object may be attained without the appearance in their eyes of any actual extraordinary exertion having been made. My reasons for gratis distribution are these:—In the first place, unworthy and reckless persons would take the supplies, and promise to pay for them afterwards without ever having any intention of making good that promise, and so it would tend to demoralization; and, secondly, men of purer principle might be deterred from availing themselves of the boon, by the dread of never having it in their power to make good the price. If it should be considered advisable to take from them any acknowledgment at all for the value of the articles delivered to them, it should be done merely as an additional check on their proper employment of them; that is to say, each man receiving a supply of the necessaries to enable him to prosecute the fisheries, should sign a printed form of receipt for the sum they cost, and at the time he does so he should be told that the after exaction or remission of the sum will entirely depend upon the future industry displayed by the individual in the prosecution of the fishery. I would further suggest that the boats' crews to whom these articles are to be given should be told that they will be narrowly watched, and that if at the end of the first fortnight they shall have been found not to have employed to the best advantage every day in which they could have been permitted by the weather to go out to fish, their whole rigging, oars, cables, anchors, and fishing gear will be taken from them. And a strict account being kept of all the fish taken by the respective crews, a considerable prize, or perhaps three considerable prizes, should be held out to be given to the boats' crews who shall have taken most fish.

Perhaps the simplest and best mode of providing the supplies of oars, cordage, anchors, cables, sails, and hooks and lines for distribution, may be by contract with some respectable person at Greenock, who will undertake to proceed to the places required, and, on the spot, place them as they are called for, in the hands of the Board's officer, who may then distribute them to the different individuals, all ready for use, with the exception of the hooks and lines, which may be made up and tied by the fishermen themselves to whom they are to be given; and, as a further check, all this should be done under the eye of the factor or person appointed by the proprietor, in order that he may see and be satisfied that all is correct. The Board's officer must be instructed to keep a book with all the names of the boats, and the individuals of their crew to whom the articles are given, with columns for the articles, and the sums which they respectively cost. Such a contract as I have proposed will enable the matter to be more cheaply carried on, as much waste would otherwise arise in the cutting of sails and cordage, &c.; and Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Torch," at present in our service on the west coast, might be employed for the transit of the whole of these stores from Greenock.

I must mention that Mr. John Stewart's estimate for the fitting out of the boats was made according to the best of his judgment and calculation in the limited time, and under the disadvantageous circumstances to which the secret nature of his mission subjected him; but it is quite possible that the contract system may produce a considerable reduction of the whole sum. On the other hand, I must state that many circumstances may arise to swell the account, such as unavoidable loss of rigging or gear from storms occurring soon after the commencement of the fishery. It would therefore be prudent that a considerably larger sum than that specified should be placed at my disposal in order to enable me to meet all exigencies that may arise.

In addition to the boats noted in the general table, Mr. Stewart reports verbally that there are in Tírce perhaps 20 smacks of from 15 to 25 tons. These, or a portion of these, might be most advantageously employed in going out with the small boats to the more distant fishing grounds, so as to act as a protection and means of safety to their crews in the event of sudden storms arising. This arrangement would give confidence to the poor people, whose boats generally are by no means calculated for ensuring safety in such seas. The crews of these smacks would require to be remunerated to a certain extent, so as to make them consider themselves as engaged for the service, and they might likewise be furnished with long lines to employ to the best of their

abilities. I may mention that these smacks were wont to be employed in carrying the potatoes and pigs which the natives sent to Greenock and Glasgow markets; and as these resources have unfortunately failed, their owners will necessarily be glad of employment. The proprietors must be taken bound to have curers on the spot, to whom the fish are to be handed over for cure; the fishermen who catch them being paid a fair price for the fresh fish on delivery, either in money or food; and the fish either in a fresh or salted state may be disposed of by the proprietor to the people in general at moderate prices.

These arrangements, which may be held applicable to all the five places first noticed, will be sufficient to give employment to such of the population as can be brought to fish and for securing food to their families; and then as to such men in Tiree who may be considered as mere labourers, without skill, something might be done towards their employment on shore for the improvement of some of the small natural harbours chiefly on the west coast of that island. I am yet without sufficient information as to what work might be done at these harbours by the employment of mere labourers, as will be seen from my letter of instructions to Mr. Stewart, in the Appendix marked No. 7. I am taking measures for getting them properly reported on, along with the other harbours to be afterwards noticed on the mainland, and if it be found that mere labourers can be employed in improving them, I should strongly recommend that they should be set to work under properly qualified inspectors to be appointed by the Board, so as to carry on the work in the same way as we are occasionally in the habit of executing such little matters in regard to our harbours, as cannot from their nature be properly done by estimate and contract; and in this way, the proprietor being called on for half of the expense, from time to time, as the work proceeds, the matter will appear to come under the head of the Board's usual harbour operations, and will have no appearance of that extraordinary exertion made expressly for the occasion, which it in reality is.

With regard to the districts of Moidart, Arisaig, Morrer, and Knoydart, an application has reached me for aid in the construction of three harbours on that part of the coast, viz., at Duinach, at the entrance to Loch Moidart; Tryn, on the shores of South Morrer; and Malaig, at the entrance to Loch Nevis. As I have it not in my power, from want of the necessary information, to state whether I can recommend that anything should be done towards these harbours, or whether any real good can be done to them, by the employment of merely unskilful labourers, in the way I have pointed out as regards those in Tiree, I must defer doing so until I shall receive the general survey and report of them, of which I expect to be very soon put in possession from the steps I have taken. The application regarding them having been accompanied by a petition for hooks and lines for the people, as will be seen from my letters, Nos. 8 and 9, in the Appendix. I have called on Mr. Coll MacDonald, through whom the application was made, to transmit to me accurate returns, as per tables of which I have sent him forms, which will put me in possession of the same description of information regarding these places which I have had from Mr. Stewart regarding those already so particularly discussed.

The only other place as yet requiring notice is the parish of Latheron, in Caithness, where destitution has been reported to me to prevail, by Mr. George Traill, the member for the county. It so happens that the improvement of the harbour, at Lybster, in this vicinity, has been applied for in a letter from Mr. Sinclair, of Lybster, and likewise in a numerous signed petition from that neighbourhood. In order to enable me more fully to judge of what might be effected by setting the merely labouring people to work there, I have despatched Lieutenant Parks, in command of Her Majesty's steamer "Cuckoo," now in the service of this Board, with the orders contained in my letter, No. 10, given in the Appendix.

After receiving the various reports regarding the harbours alluded to in this paper, I shall be enabled to transmit to you my opinion in regard to them in a future report; but, in the meanwhile, you will see from the calculations now made, that, if the above plan for employing the people in fishing is approved of, and ordered to be carried into operation, a sum of not less than 3000*l.* will be required to be placed at my command, in the Royal Bank of Scotland, the account of which may be kept quite distinct from that of the other funds of the Board; and I shall, of course, employ a man of business to see that the obligations to be taken from proprietors are sufficiently binding on them before one

shilling shall be advanced. Should the employment of the people in harbour works be afterwards considered as advisable a further sum will be required for that purpose.

Before concluding, permit me to add, that I trust my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury will see proper to arm me with such discretionary powers, in regard to my transactions in this matter, as may enable me to act with sufficient promptitude, and according to the best of my judgment, otherwise my services cannot possibly be applied in the really effective manner which I should wish them to be.

THOMAS DICK LAUDER, *Secretary, Board of Fisheries.*

*Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, 13th November, 1846.*

No. 1.

LETTER from Mr. JOHN ROBERTSON, Officer of the Fishery for the District of Campbeltown, in Castrye.

Sir,

Campbeltown, November 3, 1846.

I HAVE to acquaint you that, during last week, I made a journey through the island of Islay, also to Skipness, Cow, Carradale, &c., and I am glad to have to inform you that the take of cod and ling, at all the fishing villages in Islay, will be far above the catch of last season—even of those cured, dried, and the quantities sold in the island, and sent to market in a fresh state, of cod, and every other description of fish, far exceed that of any former year. It is also gratifying to have to state that the reports circulated here, before I left home, of the approaching destitution of the inhabitants of Islay, I have found to be very incorrect; indeed from the great exertion making by the proprietor to furnish employment and provisions for such part of the population as usually depend on agricultural and other casual labour, and the necessity which those employed in fishing find for greater activity and perseverance, will, I have little doubt, (if we are favoured with a mild winter,) leave them in a much better condition than they have been during many former periods.

I am sorry that I cannot say so much as to the increase of the fisheries, or the comfort of the fishing population, at the other places which I visited. The fishermen on the east side of Kintyre, with very few exceptions, place their sole dependence as fishers on their success in fishing for herrings during the summer for a month or two. Winter, or white fishing, has never been prosecuted by them, although their position, from the nature of the ground they have to fish over, and the communication with the markets on the Clyde, renders it one of the best situations for winter fishing in this district. The cause of this does not rest so much with the men themselves as with their proprietors; the proprietors allowing them to hold too much land to make them dependent on fishing, and by far too little to render them independent of it, so that they are neither fishers nor farmers, and both occupations are neglected. From the total failure of the potato crop this season, many of these are and will be the most destitute part of the population, for they have not the means of providing themselves with boats and materials for winter fishing; although in many cases I am happy to say that landlords are assisting them to procure both, as well as by other means doing everything which can possibly be expected of them to render the failure of the potato as little felt by these people as possible.

I have, &c.

Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Bart.

(Signed) JOHN ROBERTSON.

fr.

fr.

fr.

Board of Fisheries, Edinburgh.

No. 2.

*Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, October, 2, 1846.*

DEAR SIR,

AFTER I have given you, as I have done in conversation, a general notion of the nature of the service you are now to be employed in, as well as of the manner it is to be conducted, I think it right to address this letter to you, as containing your instructions.

After joining the "Princess Royal" cutter, you will proceed with her, without delay, and as expeditiously as wind and weather will permit, to the Ross of Mull, Iona, Tiree, Coll, and Ardnamurehan, bestowing a very close investigation on the coast of these places.

The object of this will be to ascertain what number of boats there is in each of these places fit for cod-fishing; the names of the person or persons to whom they belong; the state of the boat in regard to repair, and in regard to oars, sails, and tackle, with a general idea of what sum it will cost to put her in a proper condition for fishing; and the quantity and state of the fishing gear belonging thereto—that is to say, of hand-lines, long lines, and hooks. You will also endeavour to ascertain what number of hands could be advantageously employed in cod-fishing in each boat, according to her dimensions, and what quantity and description of fishing-gear as above described, would be required on the average for each hand, and you will be so good as to ascertain on your way through Greenock, and transmit to me an estimate of the rate at which such fishing-gear, of the different descriptions mentioned, can be furnished.

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When you have completed your survey, you will proceed to Oban, and thence without delay transmit to me your journal and report, and you will then wait for further orders.

You are left to your own discretion, in regard to the state of the weather, as to the course you are to follow in visiting the different places I have mentioned; the object being that you shall accomplish the whole as expeditiously, quietly, and secretly as possible.

I am, &c.

John Stewart, Esq.,

"Princess Royal" Cutter, Edinburgh.

(Signed)

THOS. DICK LAUDER.

No. 3.

Sir,

"Princess Royal," Oban, October 27, 1846.

I beg to inform you that, (according to the directions contained in your letter of the 2nd current,) I came here after inspecting the boats which are fit for cod-fishing on the coast of Coll, Tiree, Iona, Ross of Mull, and Ardnamurchan; and I beg now to inclose for you my journal; also a list of the number of boats and owners' names; also showing the state of the boats in regard to repair, and in regard to oars, sails, and tackle, with a general idea of the sum it will require to put her in a proper condition for fishing; also the number of men that might advantageously be employed in each boat, the quantity and state of the fishing-gear belonging thereto, likewise the quantity and description of fishing gear each boat would require.

Few of the boats in any of the places where I visited, have more than two oars, but they borrow other two from their neighbors; so that only a portion of them can be at sea at one time, or when they do go to sea with only two oars, it is in very fine weather. They seldom buy a boat and oars in the same season. Fishing lines seldom last more than one season. I cannot too strongly state the great risk which both boats and crews run in going to sea with only two oars, no sail, and even when they have a sail, no purl for the guidance of the yard up the mast.

An anchor and cable would also be of great service to those who have none. I have included them in the list under the head of tackling. By the boats being fully equipped with the different articles enumerated in the list which I now inclose, it would give them a confidence to proceed to sea and set their lines, that they cannot have at present.

The boats at Tiree are too small for fishing where the most fish are to be found, none of them being larger than from 14 to 19 feet keel. It would require boats of 28 to 30 feet, as the fishing banks are half way to Barra.

The boats in Tiree, Iona, and Ross of Mull, do not commence fishing till February, but in Ardnamurchan they begin in December.

It was out of my power to furnish you with this report and the enclosed list sooner, on account of the difficult nature of the coasts which I had to land on, and the state of the weather.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN STEWART.

Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Bart.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Edinburgh.

No. 4.

JOURNAL referred to in the above LETTER.

Journal of a Voyage along the Coasts of Coll, Tiree, Iona, Ross of Mull, and Ardnamurchan, in the "Princess Royal" Fishery Cutter, by John Stewart, her Commander, inspecting the State of the Boats on these Coasts fit for Cod-fishing.

Saturday, October 10th.—At 6 A.M. got under weigh, and at 10 landed at Coll. Inspected the only four boats fit for cod-fishing in that island. They were all without fishing materials, and never were employed in the take of cod, but the owners would gladly pursue that fishing were they provided with lines, &c. At 2 P.M. landed in Tiree (the cutter went to Loch Sùd, in Mull, as there is no harbour in Tiree or Coll), and proceeded along the south-east shore, about six miles to Mamel, and examined all the boats in that direction. Found them in a sea-worthy state, but very deficient in oars, sails, masts, and lines. At 7 returned to the inn at the village of Searnish.

Sunday, 11th.—Winds high, with rain.

Monday, 12th.—At 7 A.M. went to the west end of the island, and inspected the boats in the port of Balafol. They were in a sea-going state, with a few exceptions, but almost all of them requiring oars, lines, &c. I then inspected minutely all the boats along the coasts betwixt Balafol and Cornakmore, and found them in much the same state, both as regard to the hull and materials. At 7 P.M. returned to Searnish.

Tuesday, 13th.—At 6 A.M. proceeded to the north-east side of the island; commenced at the port of Vaul, and visited all the fishing ports, including those on the Sound betwixt Coll and Tiree, then returned by the south-east side to Searnish, where we arrived at noon. The boats at most of the creeks which I visited to-day required little repair in the hull, but most of them required oars, lines, &c. All the boats in Coll and Tiree use small long lines for the take of hait, and hand-lines for cod. I immediately on arriving at Searnish shipped on board the "Princess Royal," and at 7 P.M. came to anchor in Loch Laigh, Ross of Mull.

Wednesday, 14th.—Blowing a gale of wind, and could not land to inspect boats.

Thursday, 15th.—At 6 A.M. got under weigh. At 9 landed, and examined 24 boats in Iona; a few of them requiring repair in the hull, but nearly all in need of oars, &c. None of them use great long lines, as they cannot afford to purchase them, but would gladly do so could they afford them. At noon landed and inspected four ports in the Ross; found the boats there in much the same state in every respect as those in Iona. At 6 P.M. came to anchor in Loch Laigh.

Friday, 16th.—There being but light winds to-day could not start with the cutter. At 7 A.M. crossed to Port Ussien, and inspected all the boats there and in the neighbourhood; found them to be better equipped than those I visited yesterday, particularly in being provided with anchors and cables. At 2 P.M. recrossed the Ross, and inspected the boats in the district of Ardmur; found them all in a very deficient state, almost all wanting sails, &c. At 5 returned, and inspected all the boats in Loch Laigh; found them in a similar state.

Saturday, 17th.—At 6 A.M. got under weigh, and at 3 P.M. landed and inspected fishing boats in Kilichoun Bay, Ardmurichan; found them in a very unfit state for fishing cod. At 6 came to anchor in Tobermory Bay.

Sunday, 18th.—Moderate weather.

Monday, 19th.—At 6 A.M. got under weigh, and at 11 landed on the outermost port on the west side of Ardmurichan (the cutter proceeded to Loch Sunart); I then hired a boat, and examined all the boats along the coast, until I came to Kintira Bay, where I arrived at 8 P.M. found them in a seaworthy state, but deficient in oars, lines, &c. The fishing-hanks are only from two to four miles off the coast, and abound with cod and ling.

Tuesday, 20th.—I this morning inspected the boats in Kintira Bay, and found them in much the same state as those I inspected yesterday. The take of cod off this coast is abundant, and there are several boats for the take, and vessels for the cure of the fish, which repair to Loch Moidart during the fishing season from various parts of Scotland. Having finished my inspection, I crossed to Loch Sunart, and joined the cutter at 5 P.M.

Wednesday, 21st.—Got under weigh, and inspected all the boats upon the shore from Salen to Strontian, the owners of which said that they would not go out of the loch to fish cod, and indeed the boats were all too small for the sea with which they would need to contend. At 4 P.M. came to anchor in Salen Bay.

Thursday, 22nd.—Blowing a gale of wind, so that I could not land to examine boats.

Friday, 23rd.—At 7 A.M. got under weigh, and examined all the boats from Salen to Kilichoun (the port at which I inspected the boats on Saturday last); found only one boat fit for cod fishing. At 6 P.M. came to anchor in Tobermory Bay. All the boats in the Ross o Mull and Ardmurichan use small, long, and hand lines.

(Signed)

JOHN STEWART,
Commander "Princess Royal" Cutter.

"Princess Royal" Cutter,
Oban, 26th October, 1846.

No. 5.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE NUMBER OF BOATS IN THE DISTRICTS OF COLL, TIRRE, IONA, ROSS OF MULL, AND AARON, and Fishing, together with Estimated Expense of Repairing the Boats.

No.	Owner's Name.	Place of Residence.	Length of Keel for Boats.	Number of Heads in each Boat.	Rig of Boat.	State of Sail.	State of Oars.	State of Sails.
<i>District of Coll.</i>			Feet.	No.				
1	Mal. McFayden . . .	Ardnagour . .	17	5	Fig. 1 or 2	Good	2 good	Good
2	Donald Campbell . .	"	16	5	"	"	"	"
3	John McKinnon . .	"	18	6	"	"	"	"
4	Donald McKinnon . .	"	14	5	"	"	1 good	"
<i>District of Tirre.</i>								
1	Lachlan McDonald . .	Ballymartin . .	15	5	Fig. 1 or 2	Good	Good	Good
2	Neil McDonald . . .	Manuel . . .	15	5	"	"	"	None
3	Donald McLean . . .	"	18	6	"	"	2 good	Good
4	Donald McLean . . .	"	14	5	"	"	Good	"
5	Colin Campbell . . .	"	17	5	"	"	2 good	None
6	Peter McDonald . . .	"	19	6	"	"	Good	Good
7	Alex. McFayden . . .	Nanish . . .	14	5	"	"	"	"
8	Col. McDonald . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	None
9	Alex. McKinnon . . .	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	"
10	John Brown . . .	Ballaheal . .	16	5	"	"	"	"
11	Donald McDonald . .	"	15	6	"	"	Good	"
12	Arch. McKinnon . . .	"	18	6	"	"	None	"
13	Donnan McDonald . .	"	19	6	"	"	2 good	Good
14	Alex. Kennedy . . .	"	16	5	"	Not good	Good	Large & good.
15	Fergus McDonald . .	"	18	6	"	Good	2 good	Good
16	Arch. McLean . . .	Greenhill . .	16	5	"	"	Good	Good
17	Donald McLean . . .	Scunnaig . .	16	5	"	"	2 good	"
18	Hugh McKinnon . . .	"	16	5	"	"	3 good	"
19	Hugh McKinnon . . .	"	19	6	"	"	2 good	"
20	Walter McFarlane . .	Ballymenach . .	17	5	"	"	"	"
21	Charles McDonald . .	"	19	6	"	"	None	None
22	Charles McDonald . .	"	16	5	"	"	2 good	Good
23	Donald Sinclair . . .	Burke . . .	18	6	"	"	Good	Large & good.
24	Donald McNeill . . .	Gortandon . .	17	5	"	"	2 good	"
25	Donald McKinnon . .	Gortandon . .	18	6	"	"	2 good	Good
26	Donald McNeill . . .	"	16	5	"	"	Good	"
27	John McMillan . . .	Kilbenneth . .	15	5	"	"	"	"
28	John Kennedy . . .	"	17	5	"	"	"	"
29	Donald McLean . . .	Ballaheal . .	19	6	"	"	None	None
30	Malcolm McKinnon . .	"	17	5	"	"	Good	Good
31	Archibald McLeod . .	"	18	6	"	"	"	"
32	Archibald McKinnon . .	"	19	6	"	"	"	"
33	Archibald Kennedy . .	"	19	6	"	"	2 good	"
34	Archibald Cameron . .	Kilmenzie . .	18	6	"	"	Good	None
35	John McLean . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	Good
36	John Lamont . . .	Cornackvane . .	19	6	"	"	"	"
37	Archibald Campbell . .	"	16	5	"	"	"	"
38	Donald Cameron . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
39	John Lamont . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	None
40	Peter Lamont . . .	Cornackvane . .	16	5	"	"	"	Good
41	Angus McDonald . . .	Kanavich . . .	16	5	"	"	None	None
42	Alexander McCullum . .	"	16	5	"	"	1 good	"
43	Hugh McKinnon . . .	"	17	5	"	"	Good	"
44	Lachlan McLean . . .	"	19	6	"	"	"	Good
45	John McIntyre . . .	"	17	5	"	"	2 good	"
46	Donald McIntyre . . .	"	17	5	"	"	None	None
47	Archibald McPhail . .	Vaul . . .	16	5	"	"	Good	"
48	Charles McKinnon . .	"	17	5	"	"	"	Small & good.
49	Alma McFayden . . .	"	18	5	"	"	2 good	None
50	Martin McFayden . . .	"	16	5	"	"	"	"
51	Phinnie McKinnon . .	Kirkcubbin . .	18	6	"	"	Good	Good
52	Hugh McFayden . . .	Salmon . . .	14	5	"	"	"	None
53	Malcolm McFayden . .	"	16	5	"	Not good	2 good	"
54	Hector McFayden . . .	"	16	5	"	Good	1 good	"
55	Malcolm McFayden . .	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	"
56	Alexander McFayden . .	Coulton . . .	14	5	"	"	1 good	Good
57	Rory McDonald . . .	"	16	5	"	"	Good	"
58	Donald McDonald . . .	"	16	5	"	"	2 good	"

No. 5.

MAN, distinguishing the Number of Hands in each Boat, and the Condition of the Boats in regard to Tackling and Tackling each Fisherman with the necessary Fishing Gear.

State of Tackling.	Boats required to get each Boat in Repair.	State of Small Long Lines.	State of Long Lines.	State of Hand-Lines.	State of Hooks.	Boats required to furnish Fishing Gear.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.					£. s. d.
Good Nothing but sheets and halliards.	2 3 11	None	None	None	None	7 17 6
" "	1 16 4	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	2 4 7	"	"	"	"	9 8 0
" "	1 19 8	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
Total . . .	8 4 6				Total .	33 1 6
Good Sheets and halliards . . .	1 5 8	None	None	None	None	7 17 6
" Halliards	2 19 8	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" Sheets	3 6 7	"	"	"	150 good	9 8 6
Good Sheets and halliards . . .	1 5 8	"	"	"	None	7 17 6
" Halliards	4 18 0	"	"	1 good	"	7 16 0
" Sheets and halliards . . .	1 12 7	"	"	None	"	9 9 0
" "	1 5 3	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
None	3 13 6	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	4 2 10	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	4 4 0	"	"	5 good	"	7 10 0
Good Halliards	3 14 10	½ good	"	2 good	150 good	7 13 6
" "	3 18 10	None	"	None	None	9 9 0
" Sheets and halliards . . .	2 5 3	"	"	1 good	"	9 7 6
" "	2 4 6	"	"	2 good	"	7 14 0
" "	3 4 2	½ good	"	None	150 good	7 18 6
" "	1 5 8	None	"	"	None	7 17 6
" "	1 16 4	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	1 11 0	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	2 5 3	"	"	"	"	9 9 0
" "	2 3 11	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" Halliards	5 7 6	"	"	"	"	9 9 0
" Sheets and halliards . . .	1 16 4	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	2 12 2	"	"	"	"	9 9 0
" "	2 0 10	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
None Sheets	3 6 8	"	"	"	"	9 9 0
Good Sheets and halliards . . .	1 5 8	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	1 5 8	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	1 12 7	Good	"	Good	Good	6 0 0
None	6 9 2	None	"	None	None	9 9 0
Good Sheets and halliards . . .	1 12 7	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	1 12 7	"	"	"	"	9 9 0
" "	1 12 7	"	"	"	"	9 9 0
" "	2 5 3	"	"	"	"	9 9 0
" Halliards	4 1 8	½ good	"	2 good	168 good	7 15 6
" Sheets and halliards . . .	1 5 8	None	"	None	None	7 17 6
" "	1 12 7	"	"	"	"	9 9 0
" "	1 5 8	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" Halliards	2 19 3	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" Sheets and halliards . . .	1 5 8	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
None	4 14 0	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	3 14 2	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	3 13 2	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
Good Sheets and halliards . . .	1 12 7	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	1 13 2	"	"	"	"	9 9 0
None	6 6 2	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
" "	2 17 6	½ good	"	1 good	165 good	6 10 6
" "	3 10 1	"	"	5 good	150 good	6 5 0
" "	3 8 2	None	"	None	None	7 17 6
" "	3 8 2	½ good	"	3 good	100 good	7 0 0
Good Sheets and halliards . . .	1 12 7	½ good	"	4 good	170 good	7 12 6
None	3 0 2	"	"	2 good	"	6 7 6
" "	3 13 2	"	"	"	"	6 7 6
" "	2 19 2	"	"	2 good	"	6 9 0
None	3 6 10	"	"	3 good	165 good	6 7 6
Good Sheets and halliards . . .	1 19 8	Good	"	3 good	Good	5 0 0
" "	1 5 8	"	"	"	"	5 0 0
" "	1 5 8	½ good	"	4 good	165 good	6 6 0
" "	1 16 4	"	"	3 good	"	6 7 6

An Account of the Number of Boats in the Districts of Coll, Tiree, Isna, Ross of Mull,

No.	Owner's Name.	Place of Residence.	Length of Keel far Boats.	Number of Boats in each Boat.	Rig of Boat.	State of Hull.	State of Crew.	State of Sails.
			Feet.					
59	Duncan McDonald . .	Coolen . .	15	5	Fig. 1 or 2	Good	None	None
60	Neil McFadden . .	"	15	5	"	Not good	Good	"
61	Alexander McFadden . .	"	17	5	"	Good	2 good	"
62	Neil McLean . .	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	Good
63	Archibald McDougald . .	Ardie . .	15	5	"	"	Good	None
64	John McDonald . .	"	15	5	"	"	None	"
65	Neil McLeod . .	Rong . .	14	5	"	"	2 good	"
66	Charles Lamont . .	"	17	5	"	"	"	Good
67	Heater McLean . .	"	17	5	"	"	"	None
68	John McLean . .	"	16	5	"	"	1 good	Good
69	Dor. McKinnon . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
70	Dor. McKinnon . .	"	17	5	"	"	"	None
71	Hugh McKinnon . .	Goff . .	18	6	"	"	2 good	Good
72	Charles McLean . .	"	15	5	"	"	Good	"
73	Malcolm McIntyre . .	"	18	5	"	"	"	"
74	Charles McIntyre . .	Scranish . .	17	5	"	"	"	"
75	Heater McKinnon . .	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	None
76	Malcolm McLean . .	"	14	5	"	Not good	"	"
<i>District of Isna.</i>								
1	John McArthur . .	Isna . .	16	5	Fig. 3 or 4	Good	Good	None
2	Archibald Campbell . .	"	17	5	"	"	2 good	"
3	John McDonald . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
4	Colin Campbell . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
5	Alexander Lamont . .	"	16	5	"	Not good	"	"
6	Hugh Stewart . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
7	Mark McInnes . .	"	15	5	"	"	Good	Good
8	Archibald McPhail . .	"	14	5	"	Good	2 good	None
9	John Campbell . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
10	Archibald McDonald . .	"	18	6	"	"	1 good	Good
11	Donald Lamont . .	"	15	5	"	"	2 good	None
12	Allan Morrison . .	"	16	5	"	"	3 good	Good
13	John McDougald . .	"	17	5	"	"	"	"
14	Donald McDonald . .	"	14	5	"	Not good	None	None
15	John McInnes . .	"	14	5	"	"	1 good	"
16	Archibald McDonald . .	"	15	5	"	Good	2 good	Good
17	Colin Cameron . .	"	15	5	"	"	None	"
18	Alexander McDonald . .	"	16	5	"	Not good	2 good	None
19	Donald McInnes . .	"	15	5	"	Good	"	"
20	John McInnes . .	"	5	5	"	"	"	"
21	Donald McDonald . .	"	16	5	"	"	"	Good
22	William McFarlane . .	"	15	5	"	Not good	1 good	None
23	Neil McCormack . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
24	Archibald McInnes . .	"	18	5	"	Good	Good	Good
<i>District of the Ross of Mull.</i>								
1	Murdo McQuinnie . .	Keshvelgan . .	14	5	Fig. 3 or 4	Good	1 good	None
2	John McArthur . .	"	14	5	"	"	Good	Good
3	Donald Cameron . .	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	"
4	Donald McDonald . .	Fanepport . .	15	5	"	"	"	None
5	Donald McDougald . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
6	Donald McInnes . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
7	Alexander McInnes . .	"	15	5	"	Not good	"	"
8	John McInnes . .	"	14	5	"	Good	"	"
9	Hugh McArthur . .	"	16	5	"	"	1 good	"
10	Donald McLaughlan . .	"	16	5	"	"	2 good	Good
11	Donald McGilvary . .	"	16	5	"	Not good	1 good	None
12	Lechn. McKinnon . .	Darraigport . .	14	5	"	Good	2 good	Good
13	Nel McCallum . .	"	16	5	"	"	2 good	Good
14	Alexander McFarlane . .	"	16	5	"	"	"	None
15	Martin McGilvary . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
16	John McDonald . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
17	William McGilvary . .	"	14	5	"	Not good	"	"
18	Peter McArthur . .	"	14	5	"	Good	"	"
19	James Beaton . .	"	14	5	"	Not good	"	"
20	Archibald Cameron . .	Kintira . .	15	5	"	Good	"	"
21	John McCormack . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	Good
22	Donald McDonald . .	"	17	5	"	Not good	"	None
23	Duncan Lamont . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
24	Donald McFle . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	Good
25	Hugh Cameron . .	"	16	5	"	Good	"	None
26	Donald McInnes . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"

Superintendent, distinguishing the Number of Hands in each Boat, &c.—continued.

Boat No.	State of Tackling.	Sums required to put each Boat in Repair.			State of Long Lines.	State of Long Lines.	State of Head-lines.	State of Hooks.	Sums required to furnish Fishing Gear.		
		£.	s.	d.					£.	s.	d.
See	None	4	13	2	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	None	3 good	165 good	6	7	6
"	"	5	2	6	None	"	None	None	7	17	6
"	"	5	9	2	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	1 good	165 good	6	10	6
"	Sheets	2	6	8	"	"	2 good	"	6	9	0
"	None	3	14	2	"	"	3 good	"	6	7	6
"	"	4	14	2	None	"	None	None	7	17	6
"	"	4	3	10	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	2 good	90 good	7	1	6
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	2	3	11	"	"	3 good	"	7	0	0
None	None	5	14	10	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	1 good	165 good	6	10	6
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	2	1	8	Good	"	5 good	Good	6	9	0
"	"	2	1	8	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	2 good	190 good	6	17	4
None	None	6	0	2	None	"	None	None	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	2	4	7	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	1 good	165 good	7	17	0
"	"	1	5	8	"	"	2 good	"	6	9	0
"	"	1	12	7	None	"	None	None	9	9	0
"	"	1	12	7	"	"	"	"	7	17	6
"	"	1	15	0	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	2 good	190 good	6	17	4
None	None	4	6	10	None	"	None	None	7	17	6
Total . . .		315	18	11				Total . . .	554	8	2
See	None	3	1	7	None	None	2 good	None	7	14	6
"	"	4	19	4	"	"	1 good	"	7	16	0
"	"	3	12	3	"	"	"	"	7	16	0
"	"	3	11	7	"	"	2 good	"	7	14	6
"	"	4	8	5	"	"	"	"	7	14	6
"	"	6	1	7	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	1 good	150 good	6	10	6
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	2	6	8	None	"	"	None	7	16	0
None	None	3	10	11	"	"	None	"	7	17	6
"	"	3	10	11	"	"	3 good	"	7	13	0
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	2	10	7	"	"	"	"	9	4	6
None	None	3	11	7	"	"	2 good	"	7	14	6
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	1	11	0	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	None	150 good	6	12	0
"	"	1	18	3	None	"	2 good	None	7	14	6
None	None	4	12	3	"	"	None	"	7	17	6
"	"	5	3	7	"	"	1 good	"	7	16	0
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	1	15	8	Good	"	"	Good	5	6	0
"	"	2	16	7	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	None	70 good	8	13	6
None	None	6	6	2	None	"	1 good	None	7	16	0
"	"	3	11	7	"	"	"	"	7	16	0
"	"	3	11	7	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	"	150 good	6	10	6
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	1	16	4	"	"	"	None	7	17	6
None	None	4	17	3	None	"	"	None	7	17	6
"	"	6	19	3	"	"	"	Good	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	1	5	8	Good	"	5 good	"	5	0	0
Total . . .		85	9	6				Total . . .	178	19	0
None	None	3	15	3	None	None	None	None	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	1	5	8	"	"	"	"	7	17	6
"	"	1	15	4	"	"	"	"	7	17	6
None	None	3	12	3	"	"	"	"	7	17	6
"	"	3	10	11	"	"	"	"	7	17	6
"	"	5	0	9	"	"	"	"	9	9	0
"	"	5	19	7	"	"	1 good	"	7	16	0
"	"	3	10	11	"	"	None	"	7	17	6
"	"	3	17	11	"	"	1 good	"	7	16	0
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	1	16	4	"	"	2 good	"	7	14	6
None	None	6	7	11	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	1 good	120 good	6	18	10
Good	Halliards	3	2	3	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	"	240 good	6	1	8
"	Sheets and balliards . . .	1	16	4	None	"	None	None	7	17	6
None	None	3	12	3	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	2 good	150 good	6	9	0
"	"	3	11	7	None	"	1 good	None	7	15	0
"	"	3	10	11	"	"	None	"	7	17	6
"	"	4	4	7	"	"	"	"	7	17	6
"	"	2	10	11	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	2 good	70 good	7	1	6
"	"	4	8	7	"	"	"	"	7	1	6
"	"	3	11	7	None	"	1 good	None	7	14	0
"	"	3	11	7	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	2 good	160 good	6	9	0
"	Sheets	4	19	0	"	"	1 good	"	6	10	6
"	None	5	5	7	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	None	70 good	7	4	6
"	"	5	8	3	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	1 good	120 good	6	14	10
Good	Sheets and balliards . . .	1	16	4	None	"	None	None	7	17	6
None	None	3	10	11	$\frac{1}{2}$ good	"	1 good	150 good	6	10	6

An Account of the Number of Boats in the Districts of Goll, Tirre, Iona, Ross of Mull,

No.	Crew's Names	Place of Residence.	Length of Keel for Boats.	Number of Heads in each Boat.	Reg. of Boats.	State of Boat's Hull.	State of Crew.	State of Fish.
			Feet.					
27	William Beton . . .	Kilma . . .	15	5	Fig. 3 or 4.	Good	2 good	None
28	Hugh M'Donald . . .	"	16	5	"	"	"	Good
29	Donald M'Keehan . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	None
30	Gilbert M'Arthur . . .	"	15	5	"	Not good	None	"
31	Arthur M'Arthur . . .	"	15	5	"	Good	2 good	"
32	Peter M'Callum . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	Good
33	Peter M'Gillray . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	None
34	Archibald M'Kinnon . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
35	Duncan M'Innes . . .	"	15	5	"	"	1 good	"
36	William Sinton . . .	"	15	5	"	"	2 good	"
37	Archibald M'Arthur . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
38	Donald M'Donald . . .	Unam . . .	16	5	"	"	"	"
39	Archibald Beton . . .	"	17	5	"	"	None	"
40	Hugh M'Donald . . .	"	15	5	"	"	1 good	"
41	Donald M'Lean . . .	"	16	5	"	"	2 good	"
42	Colin Cameron . . .	"	16	5	"	"	1 good	"
43	Archibald M'Donald . . .	Proston . . .	15	5	"	"	2 good	Good
44	Archibald M'Colloch . . .	"	16	5	"	"	Good	"
45	Hector M'Lean . . .	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	None
46	Neil M'Kechie . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
47	Donald M'Arthur . . .	"	14	5	"	"	Good	Good
48	Allen M'Lean . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
49	John M'Gillray . . .	Shappa . . .	15	5	"	"	"	"
50	Neil M'Gillray . . .	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	None
51	Archibald M'Gillray . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
52	Donald M'Coenack . . .	Port Usken . . .	15	5	"	"	3 good	"
53	Donald M'Arthur . . .	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	Good
54	John M'Phail . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
55	John Cameron . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	None
56	Angus Beton . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	Good
57	John M'Arthur . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
58	Donald M'Lean . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	None
59	Douglas M'Arthur . . .	"	18	6	"	"	"	Good
60	Duncan Ross . . .	"	14	5	"	"	Good	"
61	Neil M'Donald . . .	Port Usken . . .	15	5	"	"	1 good	None
62	Archibald Beton . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
63	Neil M'Donald . . .	"	16	5	"	Not good	"	"
64	John Campbell . . .	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	"
65	Hugh M'Donald . . .	"	14	5	"	Good	None	"
66	Donald Beton . . .	"	17	5	"	"	2 good	Good
67	Donald Cameron . . .	"	14	5	"	Not good	"	None
68	Colin Campbell . . .	"	15	5	"	Good	1 good	"
69	Donald M'Farlane . . .	Port Mouchra . . .	15	5	"	"	2 good	"
70	Duncan Campbell . . .	Port Nahra . . .	14	5	"	Not good	1 good	"
71	Angus Graham . . .	"	14	5	"	Good	2 good	Good
72	Archibald M'Donald . . .	"	16	5	"	"	None	None
73	John M'Furze . . .	"	15	5	"	"	2 good	Good
74	John Fletcher . . .	Arden . . .	14	5	"	"	"	"
75	Hugh M'Innes . . .	"	16	5	"	"	Good	"
76	Archibald Lament . . .	"	15	5	"	"	2 good	"
77	John M'Callum . . .	"	17	5	"	"	"	"
78	Douglas Douglas . . .	"	15	5	"	"	1 dingo	None
79	Eugene Ross . . .	"	16	5	"	"	2 dingo	"
80	Malcolm M'Neil . . .	"	17	5	"	"	"	"
81	Archibald M'Callum . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
82	Neil Morrison . . .	"	16	5	"	"	Good	"
83	John M'Lean . . .	"	16	5	"	"	2 good	Good
84	Donald Lament . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	None
85	Angus Beton . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
86	John M'Lean . . .	"	15	5	"	"	1 good	"
87	John M'Kearney . . .	Ischar . . .	15	5	"	"	2 good	Good
88	Archibald Campbell . . .	"	16	5	"	"	"	None
89	Duncan Campbell . . .	"	15	5	"	"	Good	"
90	John M'Phail . . .	"	15	5	"	"	2 good	"
91	Donald M'Kechie . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
92	John M'Taggart . . .	"	14	5	"	"	1 good	"
93	James Brown . . .	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	"
94	John Graham . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
95	Neil Campbell . . .	Ischar . . .	15	5	"	"	"	Good

Admiral, distinguishing the Numbers of Boats in each Boat, &c.—continued.

Boat No.	State of Tackling.	Sum required to put each Boat in Repair.	State of Small Long Lines.	State of Long Lines.	State of Head Lines.	State of Hooks.	Sum required to furnish Fishing Gear.
		£. s. d.					£. s. d.
Good	None	3 11 7	1 good	None	1 good	150 good	6 10 0
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1 16 4	..	..	2 good	..	6 9 0
Good	None	3 10 11	None	..	None	None	7 17 6
..	..	4 12 7	..	..	1 good	..	7 16 0
..	..	3 11 7	..	..	None	..	7 17 6
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1 15 4	Good	..	5 good	Good	3 0 0
Good	None	3 11 7	1 good	..	2 good	150 good	6 9 0
..	..	3 10 11	None	..	1 good	None	7 16 0
..	..	3 16 7	..	..	None	..	7 17 6
..	..	3 11 7	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	3 11 7	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
Good	Anchor, halliards and cable	1 14 7	..	..	1 good	..	7 16 0
Good	Cable and anchor . . .	3 8 1	..	..	None	..	7 17 6
..	..	2 11 11	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	2 7 5	..	..	1 good	..	7 16 0
Good	Halliards and anchor . .	3 0 3	..	..	None	..	7 17 6
..	Halliards and sheets . .	0 10 0	..	..	1 good	..	7 16 0
..	..	..	Good	..	5 good	Good	5 0 0
Good	Cable and anchor . . .	2 6 1	None	..	1 good	None	7 16 0
..	..	2 6 1	1 good	..	2 good	150 good	6 9 0
Good	Halliards, sheets, cable, and anchor.	..	None	..	None	None	7 17 6
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
Good	Cable and anchor . . .	2 6 1	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	2 6 9	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	2 1 9	1 good	..	1 good	70 good	7 3 0
Good	Halliards, sheets, cable, and anchor.	0 9 4	None	..	None	None	7 17 6
..	..	0 10 0	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
Good	Cable and anchor . . .	2 6 1	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
Good	Halliards, sheets, cable, and anchor.	0 10 0	Good	..	5 good	Good	5 0 0
..	..	0 10 0	1 good	..	3 good	150 good	6 7 6
Good	Cable and anchor . . .	2 6 9	None	..	None	None	7 17 6
Good	Halliards, sheets, cable, and anchor.	0 12 0	..	..	..	..	9 9 0
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
Good	Cable and anchor . . .	2 11 9	Good	..	5 good	Good	3 0 0
..	..	2 10 9	1 good	..	2 good	150 good	6 9 0
..	..	3 4 9	None	..	None	None	7 17 6
..	..	2 15 1	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	2 15 9	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
Good	Halliards, sheets, cable, and anchor.	0 11 4	1 good	..	..	70 good	7 4 6
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
Good	Cable and anchor . . .	2 12 1	None	..	..	None	7 17 6
..	..	2 12 9	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	3 11 7	1 good	..	3 good	125 good	6 15 10
Good	Halliards	2 9 5	None	..	1 good	None	7 16 0
..	Sheets and halliards . .	1 15 0	..	..	None	..	7 17 6
Good	None	4 2 11	..	..	..	..	7 16 0
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1 15 8	..	..	1 good	..	7 17 6
..	..	1 15 0	..	..	None	..	7 17 6
..	..	1 5 8	..	..	2 good	..	7 14 0
..	..	1 15 8	Good	..	3 good	Good	5 0 0
..	..	2 3 11	None	..	2 good	None	7 14 6
Good	None	3 16 7	..	..	None	..	7 17 6
..	..	3 12 3	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	4 19 4	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	3 11 7	..	..	1 good	..	7 16 0
Good	Halliards	2 4 5	..	..	None	..	7 17 6
Good	Sheets	2 9 4	..	..	3 good	..	7 13 0
..	None	3 11 7	..	..	..	..	7 13 0
..	..	3 10 11	..	..	1 good	..	7 16 0
..	..	3 15 7	..	..	..	..	7 16 0
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1 15 8	..	..	..	..	7 16 0
Good	None	3 12 3	..	..	None	..	7 17 6
..	..	3 1 7	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	3 11 7	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	3 11 7	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	3 15 4	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
..	..	3 10 11	..	..	..	..	7 17 6
Good	Halliards	2 18 4	..	..	1 good	..	7 16 0
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1 15 8	..	..	2 good	..	7 14 6

FISHERIES—SCOTLAND.

An Account of the Number of Boats in the Districts of Coll, Tiree, Iona, Ross of Mull

No.	Owner's Name.	Place of Residence.	Length of Keel for Boats.	Number of Hands in each Boat.	Rig of Boats.	State of Boats' Hull.	State of Oars.	State of Sails.
96	John Smith	Garnersreigh . .	15	5	Fig. 3 or 4	Good	2 good	None
97	Donald Graham . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
98	Duncan Graham . . .	"	17	5	"	Not good	"	"
99	John McLean	"	14	5	"	Good	"	"
100	Douglas McPhail . . .	Bonsness	17	5	"	"	Good	Good
101	Robert McFarlane . . .	"	16	5	"	"	2 good	None
102	John McGray	"	16	5	"	"	"	"
103	Hugh Beton	"	15	5	"	"	None	"
104	Donald Brown	"	17	5	"	"	Good	Good
105	Charles McKechnie . . .	Ardinger	14	5	"	Not good	2 good	None
106	John Cameron	Tonghill	17	5	"	Good	"	"
<i>District of Ardsayshire.</i>								
1	Donald McDonald . . .	Ormesbeg	14	5	Fig. 3 or 4	Good	Good	Good
2	Donald Cameron . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
3	Duncan McKennie . . .	"	15	5	"	Not good	"	None
4	Donald McDonald . . .	"	14	5	"	Good	2 good	"
5	Duncan McLachlan . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
6	John McDonald	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
7	Colin Campbell	"	14	5	"	Not good	1 good	"
8	Alexander McKennie . . .	"	15	5	"	Good	"	"
9	Colin Connell	"	16	5	"	"	Good	Good
10	Duncan McLachlan . . .	"	15	5	"	"	2 good	None
11	Douglas McCullum . . .	Ormesmore	14	5	"	"	Good	Good
12	John McKennie	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	None
13	Cake McCullum	"	15	5	"	"	Good	Good
14	Donald McDonald . . .	"	16	5	"	Not good	"	"
15	Hugh Campbell	"	15	5	"	"	None	"
16	Hugh Cameron	"	15	5	"	Good	2 good	"
17	John McPhail	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
18	Donald McKennie . . .	"	15	5	"	"	1 good	"
19	Alexander Cameron . . .	Gerragill	15	5	"	"	2 good	"
20	Donald Cameron	"	16	5	"	"	"	"
21	Alexander Cameron . . .	Amochench	14	5	"	"	None	"
22	Archibald McLachlan . . .	"	15	5	"	"	2 good	"
23	Donald McMillan	"	16	5	"	"	3 good	"
24	Allan McDonald	"	15	5	"	"	2 good	"
25	Donald McLachlan . . .	"	14	5	"	Not good	"	"
26	John McKennie	Achna	14	5	"	"	"	"
27	John Gray	"	14	5	"	Good	2 good	"
28	Archibald McLachlan . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
29	James Henderson	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
30	Angus Henderson	"	14	5	"	Not good	"	"
31	Nathan McKay	Achnanney	16	5	"	Good	"	"
32	Alex. McLachlan	Glenadian	15	5	"	"	"	"
33	Allan Cameron	Kilmory	14	5	"	"	"	"
34	Duncan Cameron	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
35	Duncan Henderson	"	16	5	"	"	"	Good
36	John McLachlan	"	16	5	"	"	"	"
37	Duncan McPherson	"	14	5	"	"	"	None
38	Duncan McLachlan . . .	Sandiltherrock . . .	14	5	"	"	Good	Good
39	Douglas Cameron	"	16	5	"	"	"	"
40	John McColl	"	14	5	"	"	"	None
41	John McColl	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
42	John McKennie	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
43	Hugh Cameron	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
44	John Henderson	"	15	5	"	"	2 good	"
45	Hugh McFie	Ockle	15	5	"	Not good	"	Good
46	Angus McFie	"	15	5	"	Good	Good	"
47	John Cameron	"	16	5	"	"	"	None
48	Duncan Henderson	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
49	John Cameron	"	16	5	"	"	2 Good	"
50	Allan Cameron	"	16	5	"	"	"	"
51	Donald Cameron	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
52	Allan Cameron	Gerrisvern	16	5	"	"	None	"
53	John Cameron	"	14	5	"	"	2 good	"
54	George Ritchie	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
55	John Cameron	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
56	Hugh McFie	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
57	William McRae	Arrigan	16	5	"	"	"	"
58	John Cameron	Leuro	14	5	"	"	"	"
59	Archibald Cameron	Arton	15	5	"	"	"	"
60	Donald Cameron	"	16	5	"	"	"	"

Adamarchon, distinguishing the number of Hands in each Boat, &c.—continued.

No. of Boat.	State of Tackling.	Sails required to put each Boat in order.			State of small Long Lines.	State of Long Lines.	State of third Lines.	State of Boats.	Sails required to furnish Fishing Gear.		
		£.	s.	d.					£.	s.	d.
Net	None	3	11	7	None	None	None	None	7	17	6
Good	Halliards	3	2	4	1 good	..	..	..	7	5	0
None	None	7	16	0	None	..	2 good	..	7	14	6
..	.. . . .	3	15	4	..	..	None	..	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1	12	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
None	None	3	12	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	12	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	4	3	3	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	2	3	11	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
None	None	3	16	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	10	11	..	..	..	70 good	7	17	0
Total		304	8	1	..	..	..	Total	297	18	2
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1	5	8	None	None	None	None	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	1	5	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
None	None	3	11	2	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
Good	Halliards	2	17	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
None	None	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	10	11	..	..	2 good	..	7	14	6
..	.. . . .	5	7	8	..	..	None	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	16	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1	5	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
None	None	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1	5	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
None	None	3	10	11	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1	5	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	1	17	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
None	None	4	3	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	10	11	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	17	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	12	3	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	19	11	1 good	..	..	120 good	7	0	4
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	None	..	..	None	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	6	11	1 good	..	..	150 good	6	12	0
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	None	..	..	None	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	5	4	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	4	6	7	1 good	..	..	10 good	7	4	6
..	.. . . .	3	10	11	None	..	..	None	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	4	7	7	..	..	2 good	..	7	14	6
..	.. . . .	3	12	3	..	..	None	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	10	11	1 good	..	..	150 good	6	12	0
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	None	..	..	None	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1	16	4	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	1	16	4	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
None	None	3	10	11	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1	6	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	1	5	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	Halliards	2	7	3	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
None	None	3	1	3	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	1	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	1	3	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	6	13	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
Good	Sheets and halliards . .	1	5	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	1	5	8	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
None	None	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	12	3	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	12	3	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	19	11	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	12	3	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	10	11	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	10	11	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	10	11	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	12	3	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	10	11	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	11	7	..	..	..	..	7	17	6
..	.. . . .	3	12	3	..	..	..	..	7	17	6

An Account of the Number of Boats in the Districts of Coll, Tiree, Iona, Ross of Mull.

No.	Owner's Name.	Name of Boatman.	Length of Keel for Boats.	Number of Heads in each Boat.	Size of Boats.	State of Boat's Hull.	State of Oars.	State of Sails.
61	Alexander Cameron	Aitna . . .	14	5	Fig. 3 or 4	Good	2 good	None
62	John Nisbet . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
63	Allan Gillies . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	"
64	Allan M'Pherson . .	Shuffart . .	15	5	"	"	"	"
65	John Cameron . . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
66	Archibald Cameron . .	"	14	5	"	"	"	"
67	Hugh M'Pherson . . .	"	15	5	"	"	"	Good
68	Archibald M'Diarmid .	Ardeighuith .	15	5	"	"	"	None

Figure 1.

Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch to the foot.

Figure 2.

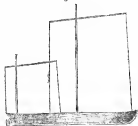
Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch to the foot.

Figure 3.

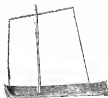
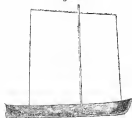
Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch to the foot.

Figure 4.

Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch to the foot.

fishermen, distinguishing the number of Hands in each Boat, &c.—continued.

No. of Boats.	State of Tackling.	Sum required to put each Boat in Repair.	State of small Long Lines.	State of Long Lines.	State of Hand Lines.	State of Hooks.	Sum required to furnish Fishing Gear.
		£ s. d.					£ s. d.
Net	None	8 10 11	None	None	None	None	7 17 6
"	"	3 10 11	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
"	"	3 11 7	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
"	"	3 11 7	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
"	"	3 10 11	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
"	Sheds and balliards . .	3 10 11	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
Gal	None	1 15 8	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
Net	"	3 11 7	"	"	"	"	7 17 6
	Total	220 16 9	..	..	..	Total .	531 2 10

Abstract of the foregoing Account.

	£ s. d.
Sum required to put all the boats in repair	834 17 9
Sum required to furnish the fishermen with the necessary fishing gear	2,155 9 8
Total	2,990 7 5

Besides the above, it appears that about one-half of the boats require to be provided with rudders, and it has been found necessary for the safety of the fishermen, to supply this deficiency. The cost of each rudder is estimated at 6s., which, for 139 boats, will amount to

	41 14 0
Total sum to be provided for	3,002 1 5

Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution, Edinburgh,
November 12, 1846.

AN ABSTRACT of the NUMBER of BOATS and HANDS employed therein in the DISTRICTS of COLL, TIRRE, LORNA ROSS of MULL, and ARDNAMURCHAN; with a Statement of the Expense of providing each Fisherman with the necessary Fishing Gear; and also of the Expense of putting all the Boats in an efficient state of Repair.

District.	Number of Boats.	Number of Hands in each Boat.	Expense of Small Long Lines.	Expense of Long Lines.	Expense of Small Lines.	Total Expense of Lines.	Expense of providing Bait.	Total Expense of repairing Boats.	Total Expense of providing Lines, Bait, and repairing Boats.
			£. s. d.	£.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Coll . .	4	21	10 10 0	21	1 11 6	38 1 6	0 12 0	8 4 6	41 18 0
Tirre . .	76	400	161 9 2	400	22 19 0	584 8 2	11 8 0	215 18 11	811 15 1
Lorna . .	24	122	50 5 0	122	6 14 0	178 19 0	3 12 0	85 9 6	268 0 6
Ross of Mull.	106	532	238 1 8	532	32 15 6	767 18 2	15 18 0	304 8 1	1,119 4 2
Ardnamurchan	68	340	166 0 10	340	25 2 0	551 2 10	10 4 0	226 16 9	767 2 7
Total .	278	1,415	621 6 8	1,415	89 8 0	1,125 9 8	41 14 0	834 17 9	3,002 1 5

Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, Nov. 12, 1846.

Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, 5th November, 1846.

DEAR SIR,

BEFORE proceeding to give you instructions for the performance of the new duty on which you are now to be employed, I must express the high satisfaction which you have given me by the admirable manner in which you have conducted the business of the difficult mission from which you have just returned, and I have no doubt you will do your best to execute that which I am now to intrust to you with equal zeal, activity, prudence, and success.

Requesting that you will join the "Princess Royal Cutter" with the least possible delay, you will, without loss of time, proceed again to Tirre, and bestow an accurate examination on the different natural havens in that island, especially such as are most conveniently situated for boats prosecuting the cod and ling fisheries.

You will in the first place distinguish and describe each haven under its own respective head, and then divide each such head into two sections.

The first, giving an account of all work, such as excavation, &c., that may be carried on for its improvement by common unskilled labourers; and giving a rough estimate, so far as you can do so, of the probable number of hands that could be employed on it, and the expense it might cost.

The second, noticing any work, such as a breakwater, composed entirely of undressed stones, or of such stones framed in rough fir-wood, with the probable number of hands that might be employed on it, and the probable number of fir-trees that might be required, and the probable expense, as nearly as you can estimate.

Having gone through your report on these havens, you will state, according to the best of your judgment, which of them may be considered as the most important for execution, and with this view give a comparative statement of their respective merits.

To assist you in your investigation, and in forming your judgment, I now give you with this an extract from a letter from Mr. James Robertson, the Chamberlain of Argyll, addressed to the Marquis of Lorne, in which he notices some of the havens in Tirre.

Having completed your survey of Tirre for the above-mentioned purpose, you will next proceed by all manner of expedition to the south-western coast of Inverness-shire, and there give an equally accurate inspection of the coasts of Moilart, Arisnig, Morer, and Knoydart; reporting, under the same heads as already described for Tirre, on all the havens that may be considered available for boats, specifying, in regard to each haven respectively, whether it requires anything to be done to it to make it a safe and useful harbour, and if anything does require to be done, noticing it under the same heads as I have already specified; and after this particular Report on these havens individually, you will be so good as to state generally, as in the case of Tirre, what are the harbours that you would consider as the most important, so that the respective merits of each in regard to the others may be perfectly understood. You will take care not to omit those of Duinack, Tray, and Malsig; and to assist you in your investigation, I put into your hands an abridged manuscript portion of the map of Scotland, in which these havens have been marked.

If you think that the employment of any practical man from Greenock or elsewhere, accustomed to labour at such works, would, in any way, aid you in your investigations or estimates, you are at liberty to employ such a person, engaging with him on the lowest terms you can, and charging the expense in an account to me.

As before, I must now trust to your own discretion as to your movements in regard to res-

ther, and likewise as to your keeping the object of your investigation strictly secret, as formerly instructed previous to your last mission.

When your survey and report are completed, you will return with the cutter to Oban, or to such other place as may enable you to make the most expeditious journey to Edinburgh for the delivery of your Report.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) THOMAS DICK LAUDER.

John Stewart, Esq., "Princess Royal" Cutter, Edinburgh.

No. 8.

Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, October 31, 1846.

SIR,

WITH reference to my letter to you of 7th September last, and to the petition of the fishermen and others residing in Moidart, Arisaig, Morrer, and Knoydart, which occasioned it, I beg to say that it has since occurred to me, that, although I cannot hold out, as I have already stated, any hope of the Board of Fisheries, with the means at present at its command, being able to comply with the prayer of that petition, it would yet be very desirable that I should be put in possession of such information as may enable me to estimate what the extent of the demand really is.

If, therefore, you could, without giving birth to expectations which most probably may never be realized, and which therefore it would be cruel to engender, give me, at your earliest convenience, a tabular view of the number and size respectively of the boats that would be required to give employment to the young men of the district, who are said, in the petition, to be eager to follow out the fishing, as well as of the fishing gear required, and the expense of the different kinds thereof respectively, I should be very much obliged to you, and it would put me in a condition the better to state my own sentiments on the subject, if at any time I should be applied to for them.

The return I want might be made out according to the annexed form.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS DICK LAUDER,
Secretary Board of Fisheries.

Colt. McDonald, Esq., Lochsail, Strontian.

A TABULAR VIEW of the Number and Size respectively of the BOATS required at MOIDART, ARISAIG, MORRER, and KNOYDART, together with the amount of Fishing Gear required, and the Expense thereof respectively:—

Length of Keel for Boats.	Expense of Boats.	Name of the Crews who are willing to work in them.	Amount of Fishing Nets wanted.	Expense of Nets.	Amount of Great Long Lines wanted.	Expense thereof.	Amount of Small Long Lines wanted.	Expense thereof.
	£. s. d.	A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. &c.	Number.	£. s. d.	Number.	£. s. d.	Number.	£. s. d.
<i>Moidart.</i>								
1 Boat, — ft. keel.								
<i>Arisaig.</i>								
1 Boat, — ft. keel.								
<i>Morrer.</i>								
1 Boat, — ft. keel.								
<i>Knoydart.</i>								
1 Boat, — ft. keel.								

No. 9.

Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, November 6, 1846.

DEAR SIR,

WITH reference to the subject of my letter to you of the 31st ultimo, and to the conversation I had with you to day, I have now to beg that you will have the goodness, at your earliest convenience, to add another tabular view to that of which I have already sent you the Form. In this second Table, I should wish you to insert, under the several heads of the respective estates belonging to the different proprietors, the whole of the boats now existing in the districts of Moidart, Arisaig, and Knoydart, which might be made available for immediate employment in fishing, with the names of the owners or skippers, the length of keel, and description of boat and rig; the number of hands that could be employed in her; the repairs if any, wanted; the oars, masts, sails, or other rigging; and the rudders, cables, and anchors,

that might be required to fit them out for sea—and this may be all thrown into a Table such as that of which I now send you the Form enclosed.

The great point is to make the Return such as will enable me to know what particular boats and people belong to each particular estate and proprietor.

By the time you send me this Return, which I hope will be soon, I shall probably be prepared to write you again.

I am, &c.
(Signed)

THOMAS DICK LAUDER,
Secretary Board of Fisheries.

Colt. McDonald, Esq., Edinburgh.

A TABULAR VIEW of the NUMBER and SIZE respectively of FISHING BOATS at MOIDART, ARISAIG, MORVEN, and KNOYDART, distinguishing the Owners' Names, and the other particulars under mentioned, with the probable expense thereof, and also classifying the above Districts under the Heads of respective Estates and Proprietors.

Owners' Names.	Length of Keel.	Number of Heads capable of being employed.	Boards, Oars, Masts, Sails, or other Rigging; Ropes, Cables, or Anchors wanted.	Probable Expense.
	Feet.	No.		£. s. d.

Moidart.—Classifying under heads of respective estates and proprietors.

Arisaig.—Classifying under heads of respective estates and proprietors.

Morven.—Classifying under heads of respective estates and proprietors.

Knoydart.—Classifying under heads of respective estates and proprietors.

Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, October 28, 1846.

DEAR SIR.

AFTER having read to you a letter from Mr. Sinclair, of Lybster, transmitting a statement of the circumstances connected with the harbour there, which points out the importance of something being done for the improvement of the harbour there, by the removal of rocks and large stones from the Fairway,—and having given you verbally my general instructions for its examination, I think it right to give you this letter for your guidance.

You will have the goodness to proceed, with as little delay as possible, with the "Cuckoo" steam vessel, under your command, to the Moray Firth, for the purpose of thoroughly and completely inspecting and reporting on the present state of the harbour at Lybster, and likewise as to what, in your opinion, would require to be done to make it perfect for fishery purposes. In doing this, you will take care to classify the works under two distinct heads.

The first head to include all such operations of the nature of excavation, removal of obstacles, &c., which might be accomplished by the employment of the ordinary population of the country, that is to say, by the mere bodily labour of unskilful persons.

The second head to include all such works as piers, &c., which can only be constructed by labourers possessing a certain degree of skill, as in hewing or laying stones, &c.

I should wish you also to state, in round numbers, and to the best of your judgment, what might probably be the expense that would require to be provided for under each of these two heads respectively.

You will have the goodness to make your report as full and satisfactory as possible, adding any information which you may consider valuable to that which I have specifically requested in this letter.

In taking soundings or measurements, or making any observations or inquiries, you will be so good as carefully to conceal the object you have in view, so as, if possible, to keep the intention of your present mission entirely within your own breast, and when you have collected all your materials, and drawn up your report, you will make the best of your way back to Leith, to deliver it into my hands.

(Signed)

Believe me, &c.
THOMAS DICK LAUDER,

Lieut. Parks, H. M. Steam-vessel, "Cuckoo,"
Leith Roads.

Mr. TREVELYAN to Sir E. COFFIN.

Treasury, November 17, 1846.

BEFORE taking any step on this plan for relieving some of the most distressed districts on the western coast of Scotland, by acting upon the fisheries, we shall be glad to have your opinion upon it.

There can be no doubt that if the fishermen were assisted with gear and tackle in the manner proposed, and their operations were properly supported and directed, by the establishment of well organized curing stations by the proprietors, and by proper superintendence on the part of the officers of the Board of Fisheries, valuable assistance would be afforded towards enabling the inhabitants of these districts not only to get through the present trying season, but to maintain themselves permanently in an industrious and creditable manner.

The principle involved in the proposition of an unequivocal return to Government subsidies in aid of this branch of business, is the only thing which I regard with apprehension; and the point to which I shall be obliged to you particularly to direct your attention is, how far this ought to be considered as constituting an objection to the plan.

I have no fear of the precedent being attended with any inconvenience in Ireland. The payment proposed to be required from the landed proprietors of half the expense of the gear and tackle, and the circumstance of the whole responsibility of forming and maintaining the curing establishments being thrown on them, will prevent our being urged to extend the measure.

But is there such a decided line of distinction between the particular districts in Scotland to which this assistance is proposed to be given, and other districts more or less engaged in the fishery, as would enable us to decline, with good reason, any applications that might be pressed upon us in behalf of districts not included in Sir T. D. Lauder's Report?

Sir R. COFFIN to Mr. TRAVELIAN.

Bath, November 18, 1846.

I HAVE read with much attention the papers herewith returned, and although Sir T. D. Lauder's remarks, proceedings, and plans seem to me generally very judicious, I cannot divest myself of doubts of the expediency of his proposal of giving assistance of any kind to the fishermen *gratuitously*. The districts named by him are, I believe, among the most necessitous, yet not in this respect so decidedly inferior to many others on the same line of coast as to justify the exclusion of the latter from a similar boon, should it be demanded. But the objection to the gift of aid in tackle, &c., does not, in my opinion, apply so much to the future inconvenience of the precedent, as to the probable present effect of it on the success of the measure. I think it may be deemed an almost invariable rule that men set little value on that which is acquired without cost, and may be misused or neglected without sensible loss to themselves; and, although the fishermen whom it is proposed to assist should be unable to pay in money, now or hereafter, for the gear supplied to them, it does not seem to follow that the distribution should be therefore unconditional, and the abuse of it be exempted from any consequences which they can immediately feel. In any case, it would apparently be advisable to consider it as a loan rather than a gift, and to reserve a power of reclaiming it if not applied to the intended object, or of enforcing payment of the value if necessary; and the ultimate gift of the articles thus lent might be made contingent on a certain amount of success or of exertion in the use of them. Any practicable arrangement of this kind would, in my opinion, be preferable to letting the fishermen suppose that the mere fact of poverty entitles them to gratuitous aid in any shape, for this, instead of stimulating their efforts, would tend to withdraw all incentives to improve their condition by industry.

With respect to the larger question of the propriety of any pecuniary aid from the Government in promoting the object in view, I do not feel myself competent to give an equally decided answer. Setting aside the considerations of national policy which it may by some be deemed to involve, I think that the obligation of proprietors to cultivate, for the benefit of the people resident on their estates, the resources of the sea, can hardly be put on the same level with the improvement of those of the land; but the more immediately pressing consideration is, how the object itself can best be insured, and it seems to me that public aid is indispensable to this result. Proprietors possessed of great means, like the Duke of Sutherland and Mr. Mathison, may, and probably will, act independently, but there are so many who either cannot or will not come forward unless incited by the assurance of support from the public purse, that, whatever view may be taken of their equitable

claim to it, no extensive success can be looked for unless it be afforded. On this ground alone I would venture to recommend the measure, which does not appear to demand such an expenditure as renders the experiment alarming.

MR. LOCH to Mr. TREVELYAN.

12, *Albemarle Street*, November 19, 1846.

I HAVE read the papers which you put into my hands this morning, regarding a proposal made by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, to help the people of certain portions of the west Highlands and of the Hebrides during the present destitution unhappily prevailing in these districts.

I can only pretend to make a very few observations on them, being unacquainted with these localities: but from experience I can state that there is no such difficult problem as the question of encouraging the fisheries in the Highlands.

The natives are in general averse to going to sea; they generally hold certain portions of land fit for culture, to which some hill pasture is attached. They have by degrees been induced to engage in the herring fishing, but, except in a very few instances, they have not taken to the cod and ling fishing.

Many years ago premiums were offered by the late Duke of Sutherland for the greatest number of fish caught, first on the shores of the Moray Frith, and next in Assynt, situated upon the Atlantic. These prizes had some effect, but the want of markets in both cases checked the progress of the attempt. In the Reay country, Mr. Anderson, encouraged by Lord Reay, for some years successfully prosecuted the cod and ling fishing at Rispond, a creek upon the north coast, and at Oldsheris on the west coast; but by degrees this attempt also was abandoned.

Latterly Mr. Mackay, of Sandwood, has carried on the curing of cod and ling with success, on the west coast near Loch Inchard; but stranger boats from the Moray Frith, and, I believe, also some from England, and not the inhabitants, have been the successful fishermen. On the north coast some curers of Wick having become purchasers of dried fish, the people of Armadale, Portskerra, and some of the other creeks, have caught and cured a good many fish. They have been very recently assisted by the Duke of Sutherland affording them some hooks and lines.

In Assynt the same has been done, the same having been previously done by the late Duke, without any extensive or permanent effect being the result.

Previous to the late potato failure it was anxiously considered how these fishings could be made a source of industry to the people, and, after mature deliberation, it was decided that the first step should be the establishment of a boat's crew from the Moray Frith, whose example might encourage the natives. The next step was to construct small piers, or landing-places, at which the boats might lie in all, or in most weathers. These are ordered, and in some cases done. The last step was to offer sites for houses and gardens only, on advantageous terms to the young men, so as to disunite the pursuit of fisherman from the holder of land.

To these are added, upon Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's suggestion, the renewal of premiums.

These details are given to show that it is at least doubtful whether any immediate relief can be expected (from an increased number of fish caught) to the present misery under which these districts labour; and it is even doubtful whether the measures suggested will, of themselves, be ultimately successful in promoting this branch of industry. But I must again beg to state that my being unacquainted with the particular places referred to may render my experience in other parts of the Highlands inapplicable. It ought to be borne in mind that the price of all salted and cured fish has fallen much this year, in consequence of the failure of the potato crop. The best substitute for the potato is barley meal, and a little experience will probably suggest others.

There is no truth more true than that which is given is little valued. So has it been the case in the instances that have been adduced. The next point is to induce the people to be more industrious; but this will not be soon, so long as they are contented with the produce of their lot and cattle, and of the herring fishery. To do this, a more speedy communication with the South, and a regular market for their produce is required. Such has been afforded to them this year on the West coast, and will be extended. In making these observations it must not be omitted to remark that they have even now made great advances in getting boats, nets, and clothing of a superior character and quality. But their want of

exertion, in some instances, is well exemplified from the fact that at Tongue House, the gentleman residing there cannot get a supply of fish, although he has offered to take all that may be caught.

With such facts before you, may I again ask whether any immediate result could be expected to meet the present difficulty? Expecting no such result, the Duke of Sutherland, besides offering premiums for the encouragement of the fishings, has resolved to give his relief in work, in the construction of roads, draining, and on small piers and landing-places.

In the Dunraven and Tongue districts many of the young men have gone South to railway labour. In the more remote part of the latter district a small aid in money was advanced to them, on their and their parents' note, to help them South. The same was offered to the Scowrie, or western district, but none have as yet availed themselves of this offer.

It is most creditable to these young men that they have remitted a portion of their gains to their parents and families, as has been the case of some who several years ago went to France to work on the railways there.

Not having any great expectation of any plan such as that recommended by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder being very effectual or immediate, I have found myself bound to state what occurs to me on it. At the same time it may do good in the districts referred to, if the landlords are made parties to it, and if they are made responsible for the repayment of a portion of the advance; I cannot persuade myself that the people themselves will ever repay any part of it. I agree in all that Commissary-General Coffin says in his letter, which is full of excellent good sense. It cannot be denied that this sort of aid, whether given by the public or by an individual, is against all principle, and only to be justified by the extremity of the case to be cured, and in carrying out the cure care must be taken to injure the constitution as little as possible.

Excuse this long and tedious letter. I felt some difficulty in giving an opinion against Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, and which opinion might interfere with the benevolent intentions of the Government; I therefore preferred, as I have before said, to state the result of my own experience, than to offer a direct opinion on the particular subject discussed in these papers.

Sir Thomas Dick Lauder has great experience and many appliances at command which an individual has not, especially in having at his command a set of excellent and experienced officers to direct the energy, perhaps I should say to rouse the energy, of the population of these districts.

TREASURY MINUTE.

December 1st, 1846.

On the 29th of September last, a communication was made by their Lordships' desire to Sir T. D. Lauder, the Secretary to the Fishery Board for Scotland, with a view to ascertain how far the scarcity arising from the failure of the potato crop on the north-west coast of Scotland might be alleviated by obtaining increased supplies of food from the fisheries; and my Lords have now before them a Report which has been prepared in consequence by Sir T. D. Lauder, dated the 13th instant, together with the remarks which have been made upon it by Commissary-General Sir E. Coffin, and a paper which has been furnished at their Lordships' request by J. Loch, Esq., M.P., whose long experience of the subject gives a particular value to any suggestions that may be made by him.

Sir T. D. Lauder states that the most pressing applications have been made in consequence of present or apprehended destitution from the Ross of Mull, Iona, and Tiree, which belong to the Duke of Argyll; Coll, which belongs to Mr. Maclean of Coll; and Ardnamurchan, which is the property of Sir James Miles Riddell, Bart.;—and he proposes the following plan for encouraging the fisheries in these districts:—

“ That the landed proprietors are to be ‘taken bound’ to have curers on the spot
 “ to whom the fish are to be handed over for cure, the fishermen who catch them
 “ being paid a fair price for the fresh fish on delivery, either in money or food, and
 “ the fish either in a fresh or salted state being disposed of by the proprietor to the
 “ people in general at moderate prices.

" The sum of 3,002*l.* 5*s.* to be appropriated for the purpose of giving active employment in the fisheries to the following hands,—that is,

532	hands in the Ross of Mull,
122	do. in Iona,
400	do. in Tiree,
21	do. in Coll,
340	do. in Ardnamurchan;

being in all 1,415 hands.

" This sum to be employed in fitting out the boats belonging to the fishermen in the above-mentioned districts with anchors, cables, oars, sails and rigging, and in providing hooks and lines for their crews.

" The distribution of these articles to be effected through the agency of a respectable contractor from Greenock under the superintendence of the officers of the Fishery Board, and under the eye of the factor or person appointed by the proprietor, in order that he may see and be satisfied that all is correct.

" That one half of the expenditure should in each case be provided by the proprietors in consideration of the permanent benefit to their estates from the adoption of these measures, and in order to secure their co-operation in checking every description of improper expenditure of the aggregate sum to be employed.

" That the articles should be given to the fishermen gratis, because, if repayment were required, unworthy and reckless persons would take the supplies and promise to pay for them afterwards, without ever having any intention of making good that promise, and so it would tend to demoralization; and men of purer principles might be deterred from availing themselves of the boon by the dread of never having it in their power to make good the price.

" That if any acknowledgment is taken for the value of the articles, it should be as an additional check on the proper employment of them, and that the parties should be told that they will be narrowly watched, and if they do not make the best use of the articles in their power for a certain limited period, they will be taken from them.

" And lastly, that one or more prizes should be given to the boats' crews who should have taken most fish."

As the objects proposed by this plan would, under ordinary circumstances, be more economically and effectually attained by the agency of the proprietors, whose duty and interest it is to encourage their population to form habits of productive industry, and some of whom, acting in this spirit, have in other parts of Scotland, at much pains and cost, established prosperous fisheries in connection with their estates, their Lordships regret that the Government should be called upon to interfere in the manner proposed, and they are of opinion that the only justification for such a step is to be found in the present destitute condition of a portion of the population in the north-western part of Scotland, and in the urgent necessity which exists for providing additional means of profitable employment for them suited to their habits of life, and to the capabilities of the district.

The details of the plan proposed by Sir T. D. Lauder appear to their Lordships to be generally well adapted to accomplish the objects in view, and the only point on which they cannot concur with him is in the proposal that the articles should be given to the fishermen without requiring repayment for them. The bad effect of such a precedent, not only upon the immediate recipients, but also upon the whole of the neighbouring population, who might consider themselves equally entitled to be the objects of the gratuitous aid of the Government, would outweigh, in the opinion of this Board, any advantage that could be obtained from it.

In order to meet the difficulties stated by Sir T. D. Lauder as likely to attend the plan of requiring repayment, their Lordships desire that the articles may be given on credit only to persons of respectable character, and who would be likely, from their previous habits and connections, to turn them to good account; that the articles be resumed if the best practicable use be not made of them for a certain specified period; and that effectual precautions be taken, through the medium of inspections by the officers of the Board of Fisheries, to ascertain that this condition is properly complied with. Every necessary indulgence may be allowed in regard to the period of repayment; but it is their Lordships' desire that it may be fully understood from the first that repayment will, at the proper time, be strictly required.

It is their Lordships' intention that the proposed plan should be carried into effect under the sole responsibility and superintendence of the Board constituted by Act of Parliament for the encouragement of the Scotch fisheries, with the assistance of the able and experienced officers serving under that Board, and the steps which will have to be taken will be shortly as follows :—

Firstly. The sum of 3,000*l.* is to be considered as appropriated to the object of encouraging fisheries in the Ross of Mull, Iona, Tires, Coll, and Ardnamurchan, in the proportion of the fishing population belonging to each of those districts.

Secondly. A communication should be made by Sir T. D. Lauder to the Proprietors of the above-mentioned districts, explaining to them the nature of the plan which is proposed for the establishment of permanent fisheries on their estates, and stating that their Lordships will be willing to advance half of that proportion of the sum of 3,000*l.*, which falls to the share of their respective estates, provided they will undertake to advance the other half, and to place it at the disposal of the Fishery Board, to be dealt with according to the arrangements described, and will agree to form, entirely at their own expense and risk, proper curing establishments on their estates, where the fish will be purchased at a fair price, and cured either for consumption on the spot or for transmission to more distant markets, as may be found to be most advantageous. And,

Thirdly. When any of the abovementioned proprietors shall have paid to the Fishery Board his proportion of the expense, and shall have satisfied the Board in regard to the arrangements to be made by him for the establishment of a proper curing station, their Lordships will be prepared, on receiving a report from Sir T. D. Lauder, to advance the remaining moiety, in order that the fishery on that particular estate may be prosecuted according to the plan which has been sanctioned.

In the concluding part of his Report Sir T. D. Lauder states that he has adopted measures for enquiring how far moderate sums of money might, with advantage, be expended in the erection or improvement of fishery piers on the north-western coast of Scotland.

Their Lordships will consider this part of the subject when they have before them the promised Report; but in the mean time they desire that it may be understood that any extraordinary assistance which may be given from public funds, will be strictly confined to the distressed districts on the north-west coast of Scotland, and that, even in this case, it will only be given on condition that the landed proprietors, or other parties interested, contribute at least half the expense.

Transmit a copy of this minute to Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, for the information and guidance of the Board of Fisheries.

Also transmit a copy to Commissary-General Sir E. Coffin, for his information.

The Marquis of LORNE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

Stafford House, December 7, 1846.

I HAVE to thank you for your kindness in furnishing me with copies of the Treasury Minute of December 1st, in respect to the fisheries of the west coast of Scotland.

I feel bound to make a few remarks on that document, which occur to me at first sight, which may not therefore be founded on due consideration, but which, if agreed in by the proprietors whom the Minute concerns, or any one of them, will have to be intimated more formally to the Lords of the Treasury.

The two facts on which my remarks are founded are these :—

1st. That a loan of 1500*l.* is offered to three proprietors, through the Board of Fisheries, on condition of an outlay on their part of the same amount.

2nd. That this proposal is accompanied by a distinctly expressed censure or animadversion on those proprietors for having required the assistance of Government at all, in the manner offered.

Under these circumstances, two courses, and but two, are opened to the proprietors concerned. Either, respectfully to decline the proposal of their Lordships, if accompanied by the censure to which I have alluded. Or, secondly, to accept the proposal under a distinct protest that they consider the

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censure undeserved; and that in accepting the proposal they deny the justice of the terms in which it is expressed.

I entertain, I confess, a strong impression, that the only other course, that of accepting the proposal as it is made, without remark on the words to which I allude, is one which the proprietors ought not to take, and which cannot be expected of them.

What I have said depends, of course, entirely, upon whether or not the paragraph referred to in their Lordships' Minute, is really what I have represented it to be. On this point, it seems to me, that the general impression conveyed by the clause, cannot be mistaken. But I beg farther, to direct your attention to the precise wording. Their Lordships "regret," taken alone, might be ambiguous; but the sense in which it is to be taken, is definitely fixed by the words which follow. "Their Lordships regret that the Government should be *called upon*," &c., and "they are of opinion that the only *justification for such a step* is," &c. It thus appears, that applying to Government for aid towards the fisheries, through the established Board, is considered by their Lordships, "*such a step*," as to require special justification; and that even in present circumstances, it is one calling for an expression of their Lordships' regret. In addition, there is a direct comparison made, and by implication a contrast drawn between the three proprietors named, and others in other parts of Scotland.

The grounds on which it appears to me, that these remarks ought not to be received in silence by the proprietors referred to, are two:—first, public grounds, secondly, private grounds.

On public grounds, they cannot admit the truth of the position, that the encouragement of fisheries is an object which lies exclusively on individual proprietors, or is one which Government, even in ordinary circumstances, may not be legitimately "*called upon*" to promote. The establishment of the Board of Fisheries, "*constituted*," as their Lordships themselves express it, "*by Act of Parliament for the encouragement of the Scottish Fisheries*," is a standing and distinct admission, that that duty does not exclusively lie and cannot be adequately performed, by the separate exertions of individual proprietors. On this point, I speak in unison with the opinions of all the proprietors of the county of Argyll, in whose resolutions lately forwarded to the Government through the Lord Lieutenant, you will find it stated, I think, that "*the encouragement of the fisheries has always been an object of national concern*." It has been so considered, I believe, by all countries in modern times having interest in a maritime population. On these grounds, then, the proprietors named in the Treasury Minute, cannot, consistently with their opinions, as expressed in the county resolutions, agree in the position, that an application to Government for the encouragement of the fisheries, through a Board established for that purpose by the law, is "*such a step*" as in any circumstances could be "*unjustifiable*" or "*deserving their Lordships' regret*."

On private grounds, also, their Lordships' remark calls for some reply from the proprietors to whom it refers.

1st. Those proprietors are not the only parties who have taken "*such a step*" as to apply to Government through the Board of Fisheries. They were joined and supported in that application by a general meeting of the Commissioners of Supply for the county of Argyll. In that meeting, the Lord Lieutenant presided, and to the resolutions came to, he signed his name. In accepting the proposal, therefore, made by the Lords of the Treasury, the proprietors named could not suffer it to be implied that a special exception is made in their favour, or any assistance given which would not be given to any other proprietor similarly circumstanced in reference to a large fishing population.

But secondly, I think the three proprietors, I speak at least for the Duke of Argyll, have just reason to complain of the somewhat invidious comparison which is drawn between them and certain other proprietors to whom their Lordships refer. Such comparisons can never be fairly drawn without taking into account *all* the circumstances of the respective cases. On the Duke of Argyll's estates, the population has never hitherto been obliged to depend on the sea for food. The people have all had land sufficient, under the potato system, to support them. The failure of that system none could foresee. Yet even under these circumstances, premiums for fishing have long been established on the Duke's estates; and the present Duke's father went to very considerable

trouble and expense in endeavouring to establish a more systematic trade in white fish. It is true that that measure, in great degree, failed, chiefly through the want of energy among the people in its support. I am not prepared to say that long and continued exertion and expenditure might not have succeeded. But, on this point, the present Duke cannot allow himself to be held responsible. Nor does it appear, that the proportion of fishermen to the amount of the population on his estates, bears a very disadvantageous comparison with that found in most districts of the Western Highlands. It appears from their Lordships' Minute, that on those estates there are 1034 who have given in their names as fishermen; and the whole population does not exceed 7000 souls.

On the whole, then, I must express my regret that the Lords of the Treasury, if they deemed it their public duty to agree to the proposal made by Sir T. D. Lauder, and in a document where three individual proprietors are specially named, should have thought it necessary to accompany their approval with expressions which must appear invidious to those proprietors. The latter cannot allow it to be intimated, that in the application to which they were parties, they acted on any other than public grounds; or that, in accepting assistance for their people in carrying on the fisheries, they are taking a step at variance with the strictest view of the natural functions of the Government in respect to this branch of the industrial resources of the country; still less, that it is one involving any mere personal favour, or which, under any circumstances whatever, could be "unjustifiable."

From the state of the Duke of Argyll's health, he is in a great measure precluded from writing on matters of business. In what I have said, I speak in his name, so far as I have yet considered the subject. I should be glad, if subsequent consideration enabled me to see that I have taken a mistaken view of the Minute. In the mean time, I have felt it due to the Duke's position in the matter, to represent my first impressions.

To yourself and to others who have taken personal trouble in regard to it, I beg to return my best thanks.

I have confined myself in this letter to the *terms* in which the proposal is made. On the plan itself, I shall perhaps have some remarks to offer at a future time.

The Marquis of LORNE to Mr. TREVELYAN.

December 8, 1846.

I ENCLOSE a memorandum I have drawn up on the merits of the fishing plan itself. You will see, I think, that in the event of an extensive emigration from the island of Tyree, which we shall do all in our power to effect; it would be out of the question to recover any part of the price of the tackle, &c., advanced, if that *advance* were made to the *whole* of the boats now engaged, more or less, in fishing; that population comprehends exactly the sort of people whom we hope to get rid of, because they never can be either good fishermen or good farmers.

I am by no means *sure* that considered merely as a plan to feed the people in the *mean time*, it may not be the cheapest and the best. But my impression is, that a *much smaller sum* employed in *equipping thoroughly* a few *selected boats and crews*, would be as good, as a means of feeding, and far better, as a means of establishing a permanent trade.

I feel very strongly the energy and goodwill displayed by Sir T. D. Lauder, in *getting up* this plan, as also the personal trouble taken by yourself and others in arranging it.

All this makes me more anxious to explain fully to you the objection to the plan, in its full extent, which I see as yet. I have had no time to consult our agents, of course, in the island.

The letter I have written on the subject of the Minute, I intend as a protest against a censure which seems to me to be distinctly implied. But the plan is not one which does no direct good to the *proprietor*; and if it is *really* the best way of helping the *people*, it will be the duty of the proprietors to enter into it.

ENCLOSURE.

(Memorandum.)

THE plan involves the expenditure on the Duke's part of about 1100*l*.
The total expense estimated for his estates is as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Tiree	811	15	1
Iona	268	0	6
Ross of Mull . .	1118	4	3
	£ 2197	19	10

Of this one-half is advanced by the proprietor, or 1098*l*. 19*s*. 11*d*., which may be stated at 1100*l*.

There will also be the expense, besides, of cures and a curing establishment.

Before entering into such a plan, it is necessary for the Duke to consider well whether so considerable a sum might not be more advantageously disposed of as regards the permanent improvement of those estates and the condition of the people.

The first consideration which occurs is, that no permanent improvement of the people on those estates can be effected without a very considerable emigration. This arises from the fact that the population is far too dense. The land is subdivided among them in small lots, from which, under the potato system, they derived their principal subsistence. They fish only occasionally, but almost all do so fish, having what is called a share in a boat, if they have not one of their own. But it is quite clear that so long as plots of land continue to be their principal subsistence they never can be good fishermen. For the establishment of a white fishery it is indispensable that a separate body of men devote themselves to it as their sole employment. And it results from this view that one-half the sum which would be requisite to render efficient *all* the boats employed in the present desultory mode of fishing would, if directed, as it were, to one spot, set up a new system altogether, and pay for the establishment of an active corps of east country fishermen, who would give employment to as many of the native population as would devote themselves to the trade.

But the most serious practical objection to the plan is that tackle, &c., is to be advanced on credit to boats' crews, a large number of whom ought, and many of whom probably will, leave the islands next spring. This will especially appear from the number of "fishwives" reported to exist in the Ross of Mull: the whole population of that estate does not much exceed 2000 people. It is quite evident, therefore, that 532 hands must be the whole male adult population, or nearly so. Those of them who are heads of families have all lots of land. They can never, therefore, be good fishermen, nor can they be good farmers. Those who are to have land permanently must have larger divisions, whilst those who are expected to be permanently fishermen must be separated more from agriculture. Would it be wise, then, on the eve—at least as we hope—of a considerable emigration, to spend so large a sum in attempting to fit out completely this population as fishermen? Many of those in whose names the tackle, &c., would be advanced, may be among the emigrants; and in the course of the winter and spring it can hardly be expected that they will be able to repay the amount.

The plan, therefore, can only be considered as an expedient to enable the people to get food this winter. But this is only a temporary object; and may not that object be more cheaply effected? This is a matter for consideration.

But the principle on which the plan is founded is excellent if directed, not so much to the mere temporary feeding of the people, as to the setting a-going of more systematic industry in the fisheries. I have stated the grounds on which it appears to me to be hopeless to make *all* the present population who fish occasionally good fishermen, viz., because they are mainly agricultural, and only take to fishing as a temporary resource.

But might not the principle be applied on a smaller scale? For instance, might not a certain number of crews be selected who are more of fishermen than the rest, and who, under the encouragement given by the plan, might devote themselves now principally, and at last wholly, to the white fishery? Those ought to be selected whom it is desirable to retain on the island when emigration is going on.

This would be, in fact, the same plan, only involving, perhaps, less outlay, and tending more directly to that which is the great object of the Board of Fisheries, viz., the encouragement of a permanent trade.

Mr. TREVELYAN to the Marquis of LORNE.

December 12, 1846.

I CAN ASSURE YOUR Lordship that the passage in the Treasury Minute of the 1st instant, to which you allude in your letter to me of the 7th, was not intended as a censure on the landed proprietors concerned, but as a defence of the line of conduct adopted by the Government as described in the subsequent part of the Minute. The "regret" expressed was, that the Government should have to interfere in a manner and to an extent beyond what has been customary, at least of late years, and the "justification" set up was of the conduct of the Government in so interfering.

Our Irish experience has given us such a painful impression of the immense evils to society arising from a habit of dependence on the Government—paralysing, as it does, every other exertion, and demoralising all classes of the people—that we felt that the introduction into Scottish affairs of anything that has that appearance required an apology, and that the measure ought to be guarded in such a way as to prevent the infection from being really communicated.

The proprietors who had succeeded in establishing thriving fisheries on their estates were alluded to as constituting the strongest part of the case against us, and it was therefore necessary to show that we were aware of the fact, and that the public emergency was nevertheless considered to be such as to require the intervention of the Government in a peculiar manner.

I much regret that the expressions which have been used in the Treasury Minute with the above object should have given your Lordship the painful impression you have received from them, and which, I repeat, was never for a moment contemplated or intended. I shall be glad if some means can be adopted of satisfying your feelings on this point, and I would suggest for your consideration whether your Lordship's letter, which appears to me to be much to the purpose, should not be printed with the Minute when the papers come to be laid before Parliament.

The circumstances mentioned in the separate Memorandum which your Lordship has been so kind as to send me, appear to me to bear out the conclusion at which you have arrived of its being desirable to select for equipment as fishermen a certain number of persons who are not likely to emigrate in the spring, and whose portions of land are not sufficiently large seriously to interfere with their fishing. Having reason to believe that this last-mentioned difficulty had been experienced on the coast of Sutherlandshire, I asked Mr. Loch what course he had been in the habit of pursuing in regard to it, and he told me that he endeavoured gradually to wean the Sutherlandshire fishermen from their agricultural occupations, and that when young men required a settlement as fishermen, he took care that they only got land enough for a vegetable garden. Macleod of Macleod, to whom I also spoke about it, on the contrary, appeared to make light of the matter, and said that his fishermen had time enough to cultivate their lots when they could not go to sea, to say nothing of the assistance they received from their wives and children.

I have for some time past been sensible of the more than usual difficulties which are likely to attend your Lordship's management of some parts of the Argyll estate during the present remarkable crisis, and you will not find me wanting in any degree of assistance which my knowledge of the plans and proceedings of the Government and its officers may enable me to give. I am always to be found at the Treasury in case your Lordship should at any time have a question to ask or a suggestion to make.

MR. YOUNG to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

31, Dundas-street,
Edinburgh, December 9, 1846.

WHILE great attention has very properly been devoted to the encouragement of agriculture and manufactures, it seems somewhat strange that little attention has heretofore been paid to the fisheries of the United Kingdom.

We hear at present of *great destitution* in Ireland, and also in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, merely because the crop of potatoes has been deficient; but considering our insular situation, and the means which providence has otherwise placed within our reach, I am humbly of opinion, that with proper attention to our fisheries, we need be under no fear of *temporary want*, and still less of *famine*.

Under this impression, I am just now engaged with, and have made considerable progress in establishing a fishing Company here upon the plan contemplated in the enclosed prospectus; and if a sufficient number of Companies, upon the same plan, can be formed in the ports of Great Britain and Ireland, I am persuaded that they would provide nutritious food for the natives of the United Kingdom, quite sufficient to meet any deficiency in the products of the land, when that event unfortunately occurs.

Myriads of fine fish surround the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland at all seasons of the year; and to obtain the needful supplies of that valuable com-

modity, will necessarily form a most important nursery for seamen, because one welled smack requires to be manned by at least four men and six boys; and hundreds of such vessels may be very profitably employed in the fisheries.

If your Lordship shall be pleased to view this matter in the same light in which it has occurred to me and various other individuals, I hope that Her Majesty's Government will give encouragement to the plan: and I shall be very happy to communicate any additional information which your Lordship may be pleased to require.

ENCLOSURE.

PROSPECTUS of the CALEDONIAN DEEP SEA FISHING COMPANY.

*Capital, 100,000*l.*, divided into 40,000 Shares of 2*l.* 10*s.* each.*

It is well known that the seas around the shores of Scotland abound with numerous kinds of fish, of fine quality in their proper seasons; but this mine of wealth is in a great measure neglected, and our markets are, in consequence, at times sparingly supplied, and too often with fish of very inferior quality.

This arises entirely from the want of proper arrangements. The mode of fishing heretofore practised with open boats is quite unsuitable, and is, moreover, dangerous to the lives of the fishermen employed, many of whom unfortunately perish almost every year.

To remedy this, it is proposed to form a joint stock Company, with a large capital, and to prosecute the deep sea fishing with decked vessels, having wells amidship, such as the Harwich smacks, which provide supplies for the London markets. By this mode the fish can be kept alive until they are landed, and their quality will avoid deterioration.

One of the fishing stations will be the Mar Bank, situated about twenty miles to the eastward of the Island of May. That bank is from eighteen to twenty miles in length, and nearly six miles in breadth, and abounds with fish of fine quality, such as cod, ling, halibut, skate, turbot, soles, haddock, whiting, &c.

It is very evident that every householder is interested to a certain extent in forwarding such a useful undertaking. A good supply of fine fresh fish, at moderate prices, is always desirable as an article of food, and it will tend to keep down the prices of butcher meat, which are at present unquestionably high.

As numerous railways are now interesting the country, they will help to render this investment not only profitable, but also safe, as large quantities of fish can be conveyed in a few hours to towns in the interior in a perfectly fresh state.

Arrangements will, of course, be made to give good and constant employment to the fishermen now engaged in the business, who will thus be enabled to provide for themselves and their families without any risk of losing their lives in stormy weather.

It is proposed to limit the risk of each shareholder to the number of shares which he holds in the undertaking, and for this purpose an application will be made for an Act of Parliament if found needful.

The following is proposed to be the plan of the Company, viz. :—

1st, That the name or designation of the Company shall be "*The Caledonian Deep Sea Fishing Company.*"

2nd, That the capital stock of the Company shall be 100,000*l.*, divided into 40,000 shares, of the value of 2*l.* 10*s.* each, to be paid in such proportions, not exceeding 5*s.* per share, and at such separate periods as the Directors may find to be needful and expedient.

3rd, That the Committee of Management shall consist of a Chairman, Deputy-Chairman, seven Directors, and three Trustees.

4th, That the Chairman, Deputy-Chairman, and Directors shall have the power (subject to the control of general meetings) of nominating the Manager, Agents, and other persons employed in the service of the Company.

5th, That every shareholder shall be entitled to subscribe for, and to hold, such number of shares in the undertaking as he may think fit.

6th, That, as soon as 20,000 shares are applied for, a general meeting shall be called for the purpose of constituting the Company, electing office-bearers, and adjusting the articles of partnership, &c.

7th, That every applicant shall be liable for, and bound to pay, one shilling per share towards the expenses of forming the Company.

Applications for shares may be addressed to John Young, Solicitor in the Supreme Courts, at his Chambers, No. 31, Dundas-street, Edinburgh.

The Hon. Lieut-Colonel KEPPEL to Mr. YOUNG.

Treasury, December 11, 1846.

IN reply to your letter dated the 9th instant, enclosing a prospectus for the establishment of a Deep Sea Fishing Company, and expressing your hope that Her Majesty's Government will give encouragement to the plan, I am directed by Lord John Russell to state, that the successful prosecution of our national fisheries is, in his opinion, an important object; but that it can be best attained by private enterprise, without the interference of the Government.

REPORT regarding the CREEKS which are capable of being improved, so as to be rendered efficient for securing the safety of Fishing-Boats and Craft in the Islands of TIRRE and COLL, and on the Coasts of KNOYDART, NORTH MORRER, SOUTH MORRER, ARISAIG, and MOIDART.

MR. JOHN STEWART, commander of the Board of Fisheries cutter, "The Princess Royal," having been despatched by me to examine the different creeks capable of improvement in the above districts, according to my letter of instructions to him of the 5th November, printed as No. 7 in my last Report, having returned to Edinburgh after the completion of his survey, I have since been engaged in assisting him to digest the materials collected by him into the Report which bears his signature, and a copy of which is hereunto attached. This, and the tabular view of the harbours, and of the number of hands and the sums of money required to complete them, which I have drawn up and appended to the Report, will, I hope, enable my Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to form a judgment regarding them; and in order to enable them the better to do so, I have numbered the harbours of each district in succession, according to their degree of importance; and I have further added, for illustration, eye sketches of the different havens, as well as of the coasts to which they belong, with numbers to correspond with them. It, therefore, only remains for me to state that, if the Government should see fit to adopt the improvement of harbours as a means of providing against the destitution now prevailing in the districts in question, it might be found advisable to proceed with the works at the following harbours, which I have here reduced into a tabular view:—

Island of Tirre.

No. 1. Kilmaloag . . .	£368 . .	59 hands for 120 days.
No. 2. Port Drishalg . .	365 . .	53 hands for 132 days
No. 3. Ballymartin . . .	406 . .	59 hands for 132 days.
No. 4. Coullis	242 . .	33 hands for 66 days.
Total	£1381	204 hands for 450 days.

Island of Coll.

No. 1. Arinagour . . .	£300 . .	As Mr. Stewart's attention was not directed to this harbour, the number of hands, &c., could not be ascertained.
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Coast of Knoydart.

No. 1. Arrer	£334 . .	42 hands for 110 days.
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Coast of North Morrer.

No. 1. Malaig	£306 . .	51 hands for 130 days.
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Coast of South Morrer.

No. 1. Tray	£334 . .	53 hands for 120 days.
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Coast of Arisaig.

No. 1. Berramore . . .	£206 . .	43 hands for 90 days.
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Coast of Moirdart.

No. 1. Duinich	£292 . .	46 hands for 120 days.
Total expense	£3043	439 hands for 1010 days.

A little consideration of Mr. Stewart's Report will show that much of the work required for the improvement of these havens is calculated to employ the untaught labourers of the neighbourhood; and even the masonry required is proposed to be of that rough hammered description which can be well enough executed, if under proper and due inspection, by many of the inhabitants of these parts, who are accustomed to dress stones for constructing the walls of cottages.

If these works, or any part of them, were to be constructed at all, the proprietor of the estate where each haven is situated should be required to come

forward with one-half of the expense, as is insisted on by the Honourable the Commissioners of this Board in the case of every harbour undertaken to be executed under their superintendence; and further, as stated in my last Report, the people should be employed under proper inspectors, to be appointed by the Board of Fisheries, it being quite possible that, in cases where the works are not very distant from each other, matters might be so arranged that one inspector might superintend more than one harbour. It will be observed that the wages of a person to superintend the operations at each work have been already included in the estimate of the expense it is likely to occasion.

THOMAS DICK LAUDER, *Secretary,*

*Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, December 19, 1846.*

Board of Fisheries.

ENCLOSURE.

REPORT of an Inspection of the CREEKS which are capable of improvement in the Islands of TIRRE and COLL, and on the Coasts of KNOYDART, NORTH and SOUTH MORRER, ARISAIE, and MORBART, by JOHN STEWART, Commander of the fishery cutter "Princess Royal," agreeably to Instructions received from Sir THOMAS DICK LAUDER, Bart., dated 5th November, 1846.

CREEKS IN TIRRE.

No. 1. *Killeanlog.*—Many fishers resort to this place in spring, and amongst them those from the Murray Firth, it being the one nearest to the fishing banks. First, by clearing away some loose stones, which at present form a bar to the entrance; by blasting some rocks on both sides, and by clearing away a great quantity of sand, more water would be given, and more room for boats to lie in it. This would employ 32 men for 60 days, and cost 198*l*. Second, by filling up two gups, the one on the north-east and the other on the south-west side of this creek, the sea would be prevented coming in at high water and injuring the boats, which it does at present; and also by building a sea wall, which would prevent the sand from blowing in, and filling up the harbour. This would employ 27 men for 60 days, and cost 170*l*. Total expense, 368*l*.

No. 2. *Port Drishay.*—This is a creek of considerable importance, being convenient to the banks between it and Skerryvore. It is well protected by rocks and islands off the entrance; but as there is no place at present to beach the boats, it is thereby rendered unsafe. First, if some loose stones were removed and rocks blasted, a good beach would be obtained. This would give employment to 28 men for 66 days, and cost 194*l*. Second, a wall built on the north side would be a great protection to boats when lying in the haven. This would employ 25 men for 66 days, and cost 171*l*. Total expense, 365*l*.

No. 3. *Ballymartin.*—This creek is much protected by a rock at the entrance, and is convenient to the fishing banks between Tirre and Iona. First, if a ledge of rocks on the north side were blasted, and some loose stones removed, the access would be made much easier. This would employ 29 men for 60 days, and cost 180*l*. Second, the building of a pier or breakwater will be of great use in protecting boats while in the harbour. This would employ 30 men for 72 days, and cost 226*l*. Total expense, 406*l*.

No. 4. *Coulis.*—Vessels are secure when at anchor in this creek, being well protected by a few small islands at the entrance; but there is a difficulty of getting out, in consequence of a rock at the entrance. By blasting as much of this rock as could be done at low water spring tides, more room would be given for vessels beating out with a head wind. The removal of loose stones and misplaced ballast is necessary for the safety of vessels when they ground on it. This work would employ 35 men for 66 days, and cost 242*l*.

No. 5. *Cornacmore.*—This is a very convenient creek to the Cod and Ling Banks, between Tirre and Barra. There is a number of boats belonging to it, and many more come from other parts during the fishing season. First, there is a rock in the entrance, much in the way of the boats going out and coming in. Were this partly blasted, it would give more water in the channel. This would employ 17 men for 60 days, and cost 102*l*. Second, the building of a pier and the filling up a gap, which at present admits the sea at high water, would be a great protection to boats when in the haven. This would employ 20 men for 60 days, and cost 130*l*. Total expense, 232*l*.

No. 6. *Faul.*—There is a considerable number of inhabitants living at and near this creek, and about 20 fishing boats belonging to it. First, the blasting a few rocks, which are at present in the way when hauling up the boats, would employ 25 men for 72 days, and would cost 180*l*. Second, the building of a breakwater would be of great benefit in protecting the boats, and would require to be made substantial, as heavy seas come in from the east and north. This would employ 30 men for 72 days, and cost 246*l*. Total expense, 396*l*.

No. 7. *Sahus.*—A commodious creek and convenient to the fishing banks. Would be much improved by the erection of a break work from a small island to the head of the beach, so as to

prevent the run of the sea from the north injuring the boats at high water. This work would employ 69 men for 56 days, and cost 211*l*.

No. 8. *Port MacNeil*, looking into the Sound of Coll.—This creek would be considerably improved by the removal of a large quantity of stones which at present covers the beach on which the fishermen haul up their boats, and it would also enable them to get to sea more easily and safely. The number of hands required to remove the stones, and blast the larger ones, would be 18 for 19 days, and cost 38*l*.

No. 9. *Shipness*.—On the south-east side of the island there is a great number of inhabitants living near to this creek. First, it could be much improved by the blasting of some rocks, which would give more room to the boats frequenting the creek, and would employ 25 men for 72 days, and cost 192*l*. Second, it would also be a great protection to boats when in the haven if a breastwork, with a return head on it, was built on the north side of the creek. This would employ 25 men for 72 days, and cost 180*l*. Total expense, 372*l*.

No. 10. *Ardes*.—I found this a small but well protected haven, to which a few boats resort in the fishing season. By the removal of a number of loose stones, and the blasting of a rock which at present forms a bar at the entrance, three feet more water would be obtained, and boats could go out and come in more easily than at present. The number of hands employed to complete this work would be 17 for 18 days, and cost 34*l*.

No. 11. *Seornish*.—This is the principal harbour, and at it is the only regular built pier in the island, and all the cattle, &c., are shipped at it. It might still be much improved by filling up a gap on the north-west side of the harbour. The stones for filling up the gap might be taken from the south side, where at present they are much in the way of the boats going out and coming in. This would employ 24 men for 30 days, and cost 78*l*.

CREEK IN COLL.

When I landed for the purpose of inspecting the state of the fishing boats in the Island of Coll, at the haven called Arinagour, on the 10th of October last, I had an opportunity of forming some judgement as to the place, though the consideration of it was not at that time contemplated. This haven is the only one in Coll where a vessel of 50 tons can anchor at any state of the tide. I noticed a small pier at the head of the bay in a state requiring a good deal of repair. It could not contain more than one or two smacks or vessels. This haven is much resorted to as a harbour of refuge by that class of vessels which trade between Tiree, Coll, and the Island of Mull and other places. It would add much to the security of these vessels and fishing boats which have occasion to go into Arinagour were the present pier enlarged and repaired. The inhabitants in Coll are capable of building with undressed and hammer-dressed stones. The number of hands which this pier would employ to improve it, and the cost of it, I cannot state, from not having inspected it minutely.

CREEKS IN KNOYDART.

No. 1. *Arer*.—This is a very secure creek, but might be much improved. First, by blasting rocks on the north-west side to prepare it for the erection of a sea wall. This would employ 18 men for 50 days, and cost 90*l*. Second, a sea wall would require to be built to prevent the sea from injuring the boats when in the harbour. This would employ 24 men for 60 days, and cost 144*l*. Total expense, 234*l*.

No. 2. *Riddarrock*.—This creek is suitable for a fishing station, being near the fishing bank between it and Skye. First, it might be much improved by blasting a rock to give more water at its entrance. This would employ 15 men for 30 days, and cost 56*l*. Second, it would also be much improved by the erection of a pier on the north side to protect the boats. This would employ 12 men for 30 days, and cost 40*l*. Total expense, 96*l*.

CREEK IN NORTH MORRIS.

No. 1. *Malraig*.—This is a safe harbour for boats, and convenient to the fishing banks. It would be much improved—First, by blasting some rocks on the north-west side, and removing the stones at the upper end of the creek. This would employ 25 men for 60 days, and cost 150*l*. Second, if a pier or breakwater was erected on the west side, the boats would be better protected than they are at present. This would employ 26 men for 60 days, and cost 156*l*. Total expense, 306*l*.

CREEK IN SOUTH MORRIS.

No. 1. *Thay*.—This is a very secure harbour, but would be greatly improved—First, by removing some stones and blasting rocks, which would give more water, and employ 25 men for 60 days, and cost 156*l*. Second, by filling up a gap on the east side and building a pier from the gap to the head of the beach, the boats would be more secure, and it would be very convenient for landing fish, &c. This would employ 28 men for 60 days, and cost 168*l*. Total expense, 324*l*.

CREEKS IN ARISAIG.

No. 1. *Barranore* is a suitable creek, being convenient to the fishing banks, and a number of fishers reside at it. It would be much improved, first, by removing a rock on the north-west side, which will employ 20 men for 40 days, and cost 86*l*; second, a building on the

same side would be a great protection to the boats, and would employ 23 men for 50 days, and cost 120*l*. Total expense, 206*l*.

No. 2. *Driscoiderock*.—This is a place much resorted to by herring, cod, and lobster fishing boats, and is already a secure harbour; but it might be yet much improved, first, by blasting a few rocks at its entrance and the removal of some loose stones, which would employ 20 men for 40 days, and cost 88*l*: second, by building a breakwater from a small rock to the mainland on the north side, the boats would have better protection than they have at present. To erect this 24 men would be employed for 50 days, and the expense would be 126*l*. Total expense, 214*l*.

CREEKS IN MOLDART.

No. 1. *Duinick, on the Island of Tona*.—The anchorage off this harbour for vessels buying cod is excellent, but from the rocky nature of the shores they have no place to land or cure their fish. The station is very convenient to the fishing banks, and much resorted to by boats from all parts of the coast, and also from the south; first, to make a landing-place some rocks would require to be blasted on the south side, this would employ 20 men for 60 days, and cost 126*l*: second, a building would require to be erected on the south side, with a small slip, which would employ 26 men for 60 days, and cost 166*l*. Total expense, 292*l*.

No. 2. *Glennig*.—This creek is much frequented by fishermen, both for the take of cod and herrings. It is also the ferry station between Arisaig and Moldart; first, by having a large quantity of loose stones removed and a few rocks blasted, it would add much to the safety of boats running into the harbour and give more room. This would employ 18 men for 60 days, and cost 118*l*. Second, a breakwater would also be of great benefit to boats when in the harbour. This would give work to 20 men for 60 days, and cost 126*l*. Total expense, 244*l*.

No. 3. *Minisarry*, situated on the extremity of the outermost part of this district, and is very convenient to the cod and ling banks. It could be improved, first, by blasting some rocks and removing loose stones at the entrance, which would employ 18 men for 50 days, and cost 96*l*. Second, the erection of a low building on the north-west side would make it safer for boats. This would employ 20 men for 50 days, and cost 106*l*. Total expense, 202*l*.

The harbours which I consider most important for execution in the Island of Tiree are—

1st. *Kilmahoy*, as being most convenient to the principal fishing bank, and where the east country boats resort to in spring.

2nd. *Port Drishoig*.—Owing also to its proximity to a good fishing bank, and to a number of fishermen who live at or near it.

3rd. *Ballymartin*.—At this creek the fishers have commenced a breastwork at their own expense, and on that account may be deserving of encouragement. There are also about 40 boats engaged in prosecuting the cod and ling fishery, both here and at the adjoining farm of Manuel.

4th. *Coolis* is decidedly the safest harbour in Tiree, and although not an important station for fishery purposes, yet it is useful for the larger class of vessels frequenting Tiree to land salt or ship cargoes of fish.

Those havens which I consider most important for execution on the south-west coast of Inverness-shire are—

1st. *Duinick, in Moldart*, from its being more resorted to by boats and vessels prosecuting the cod and ling fisheries, some of which come from Lochfyne, &c.

2nd. *Troy, in South Morver*, from its capabilities as a natural harbour for fishery and other purposes.

3rd. *Malaig, in North Morver*, on account of its proximity to the fishing banks.

4th. *Arer, in Knydart*.—Nature has done much for this creek, but it is not by any means a secure harbour at present; but should the work be executed on it which I have recommended, it would afford good anchorage for boats and vessels of 20 to 30 tons. It lies convenient to the fishing banks, and the boats belonging to it prosecute the herring fishing in summer and autumn.

In all the places I have visited the inhabitants build their own houses and make good work by undressed and hammer dressed stones. In the sums which I have affixed to the different creeks, the labourer's wages are calculated at 2*s*. per day, which will cover all tools and powder for blasting, and also the wages of a person to superintend the work at each creek. These superintendents should be able to speak the Gaelic language and be regular masons. I have likewise included in the sum the wages of a person to superintend the whole work, and point out how it is to be done.

The number of hands, and the expense of executing the works, are but rough estimates, and may be a little above or below what I have stated.

"*Princess Royal*," Cutter, Crinan,
5th December, 1846.

(Signed) JOHN STEWART, Commander.

PLAN VIEW of the CREEKS in the Islands of TIRRE and COLL and MULL, and on the Coasts of KNOYDART, KATH and SOUTH MORRER, ARISAIG, and MOIDART, which are capable of Improvement—numbered according to their relative importance—with the Sum required for Excavation and Building respectively; and the Number of Hands employed for a given Number of Days.

Names.	Sum required for Excavation.	Number of Hands employed for a given Number of Days.	Sum required for Building.	Number of Hands employed for a given Number of Days.	Total Expense.	Total Number of Hands employed for a given Number of Days.
<i>Island of Tirre.</i>						
Kilnslap	155	25 hands for 60 days	170	27 hands for 60 days	325	52 hands for 120 days
Port Dornish	194	25 " for 66 "	171	25 " for 66 "	365	50 " for 132 "
Ballymacrae	186	25 " for 60 "	265	25 " for 72 "	451	50 " for 132 "
Goile	942	33 " for 66 "			942	33 " for 66 "
Corranmore	102	17 " for 60 "	139	20 " for 60 "	241	37 " for 120 "
Vaul	180	25 " for 72 "	224	26 " for 72 "	404	51 " for 144 "
Solum			911	66 " for 54 "	911	66 " for 54 "
Port Mallow	25	15 " for 19 "			25	15 " for 19 "
Skene	192	25 " for 72 "	186	25 " for 72 "	378	50 " for 144 "
Ards	34	17 " for 36 "			34	17 " for 36 "
Swanish			73	24 " for 50 "	73	24 " for 50 "
Total	1,360	224 hands for 480 days	1,373	250 hands for 480 days	2,733	474 hands for 960 days
<i>Islands of Coll and Mull.</i>						
By letters from Mr. McLean, of Coll, it appears that Arinagarr, in Coll, and the smaller creeks of Colg and Mignary, in Mull, can also be supplied, the former at an expense of 300L, and the two latter from 80L to 100L each, say—					600	Not mentioned.
He also mentions Ba-Coraig, on the north-west side of Coll.						
<i>Coast of Knoydart.</i>						
Arer	93	15 hands for 30 days	144	24 hands for 60 days	237	39 hands for 120 days
Bhilaroch	56	15 " for 30 "	46	15 " for 30 "	102	30 " for 60 "
Total	149	30 hands for 60 days	190	39 hands for 90 days	339	69 hands for 180 days
<i>Coast of North Morrer.</i>						
Malig	109	25 hands for 60 days	156	25 hands for 60 days	265	50 hands for 120 days
<i>Coast of South Morrer.</i>						
Troy	154	25 hands for 60 days	168	25 hands for 60 days	322	50 hands for 120 days
<i>Coast of Arisaig.</i>						
Banness	85	20 hands for 40 days	159	25 hands for 60 days	244	45 hands for 90 days
Dennardoch	86	20 " for 40 "	155	24 " for 54 "	241	44 " for 90 "
Total	171	40 hands for 80 days	314	49 hands for 110 days	485	89 hands for 180 days
<i>Coast of Moildart.</i>						
Dalsh	125	30 hands for 60 days	166	25 hands for 60 days	291	55 hands for 120 days
Gleng	113	18 " for 60 "	125	20 " for 60 "	238	38 " for 120 "
Munro	95	15 " for 54 "	145	26 " for 54 "	240	41 " for 108 "
Total	333	56 hands for 174 days	436	66 hands for 174 days	769	103 hands for 348 days

ABSTRACT OF THE ABOVE ACCOUNT.

Island of Tirre	1,360	224 hands for 480 days	1,373	250 hands for 480 days	2,733	474 hands for 960 days
Islands of Coll and Mull					600	
Coast of Knoydart	149	30 " for 60 "	190	39 " for 90 "	339	69 " for 180 "
Coast of North Morrer	109	25 " for 60 "	156	25 " for 60 "	265	50 " for 120 "
Coast of South Morrer	154	25 " for 60 "	168	25 " for 60 "	322	50 " for 120 "
Coast of Arisaig	171	40 " for 80 "	314	49 " for 110 "	485	89 " for 180 "
Coast of Moildart	333	56 " for 174 "	436	66 " for 174 "	769	103 " for 348 "
Total Expense	2,327	493 hands for 944 days	2,354	493 hands for 944 days	4,681	856 hands for 1,611 days

TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

December 22, 1846.

Write to the Commissioners of Fisheries that their Lordships approve of the course of proceeding recommended in Sir T. Dick Lauder's Report, dated 19th instant, for the improvement or construction of Fishery Piers in the islands of Tirre and Coll, and on the coasts of Knoydart, North Morrer, South Morrer, Arisaig, and Moildart, with the object of furnishing employment during the present

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period of distress, and of providing additional permanent means of subsistence for the people.

The total expenditure proposed for this object is 3,043*l.*, half of which is to be defrayed by the proprietors of the estates where each haven is situated, and Sir T. Dick Lauder is authorised to acquaint the proprietors that on their paying or giving satisfactory security for the payment of their respective moiety, Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to make a free grant of the remaining moiety, and the work will be executed in the manner described in the Report.

Transmit a copy of Sir T. Dick Lauder's Report, and of its Enclosures, and of this Minute, to Commissary-General Sir Edward Coffin, for his information.

Sir T. D. LAUDER to Mr. TREVELYAN.

*Board of Fisheries, Royal Institution,
Edinburgh, December 28, 1846.*

I BEG herewith to transmit to you copies of two letters received this morning.

One from Mr. McLean of Coll, agreeing to bear his proportion of the small sum calculated to be necessary for carrying out the proposed scheme of aid to the fisheries so far as Coll is concerned, which I presume it will be inexpedient to put into action until we shall be informed with certainty what is to be the determination of his Grace the Duke of Argyll, and the other proprietors. I should presume, that my Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will not object to the small aid asked for by Mr. McLean in addition for Muck and Mull, and as he mentions some creeks or havens which were not specifically inspected in detail by Mr. Stewart, I should wish to know the pleasure of the Treasury, as to whether I should still order their inspection by that officer, that they may be taken into consideration.

As to the second letter which is from Mr. Robertson of Kinloch Moidart, I should wish to know whether the Treasury would be disposed to listen to that gentleman's proposal for the employment of his people, because if my Lords shall feel so inclined, I shall, at the same time, direct Mr. Stewart to procure me on the spot the materials for the construction of such a table as that which has been printed with my first Report in regard to the boats, lines, &c., of Tiree, Coll, Iona, the Ross of Mull, and Ardnamurchan.

It will be observed, that Mr. Robertson speaks of *nets* as well as *lines*. If Mr. Stewart is to go to Kinloch Moidart, I shall give him instructions to take an account of the nets that might be wanted, although it must require more mature consideration as to whether so much more expensive an article as *nets* can be included in the Government scheme.

ENCLOSURES.

Mr. McLEAN to Sir T. D. LAUDER.

Coll House, December 22, 1846.

I AM quite willing to advance the 20*l.* 13*s.*, being half the sum allotted to my estate of Coll. My employing so many individuals in draining operations, may probably, for this year, prevent any more applications from Coll; but I have four boat's crews from Craig, on my property in Mull, one in Muck, which I trust may yet be put on the same footing.

Having made no application for Coll, I could not possibly attach any blame to non-examination of its coasts. Indeed, I was surprised to find any notice taken of it at all; the survey not being general. Curing establishments cannot be imagined where, as with me, the size of the banks cannot admit of more than two or three boats in one place; there is no local market whatever. But I have an excellent store-house at the principal ordinary fishing-station in Coll (at Port-a-luing in Loch Brecha-cha) which is at the service of any fishers. Arinagour is the pier spot of Loch Iria, inspected by Mr. Stewart as you supposed.

Ba-Cornaig is about a mile from the north east end of Coll, the only refuge on the north side of the island, on which side, some 18 miles off, the great banks lay. Clearing a good landing-place and piling, the stones of it to form a rough slip seems all that is absolutely requisite there, and in several similar creeks on south side.

Mingary Bay in Quirrit, Mull, requires something more as a permanent station, but nothing expensive, or of any difficulty.

Craig Bay requires a sort of breakwater on a half tide point of rock.

Calgary Bay opens about three miles south of the point of Calloch (the nearest point to Coll, half way between it and Tushnish point. It is a deep sandy bay; an excellent fishing-station, and also a refuge for Tiree and Coll fishing and passage-boats when unable to weather

Calloch. A regular fishing-pier will be required there, and will cost, say from 200*l.* to 300*l.* Single farms, at each end of Coll, do not belong to me, but as the proprietors are bankrupt, and the farms for sale, nothing can be expected from them.

Captain Campbell, my factor here, will gladly accompany Mr. Stewart, and give him, and procure for him, every information. Our fishing boats are generally too small for the best banks. It is an excellent suggestion, the having a docked smack in attendance, itself provided with fishing lines, and a trawl net for catching bait for the long lines, rather than the laborious and precarious mode of small lines. A few days sounding for, and examining fishing banks would most usefully employ the Government survey steamer during their idle days waiting mail, carrying orders at Tobermory.

An accidental lameness obliges me to take the Fleetwood route to London this week. My address there is 29, Queen's Terrace, Bayswater.

MR. ROBERTSON TO SIR T. D. LAUDER.

Kinloch Moidart, Strontian, December 23, 1846.

CAPTAIN POLE informed me that Government had placed a sum of money at the disposal of the Fishery Board to purchase boats and fishing-tackle for the people of this coast, on condition that the proprietors pay half the price of the articles furnished. I am desirous to avail myself of this boon for my tenants on Kyllismore, a farm on Loch Moidart.

These men have been always fishers, and I have assisted some of them in the purchases of nets, &c. But their boats are too small to go to a distance, and their nets, &c. are not what they should be, because, when the people of this coast were only getting small takes of herrings, boats from Lochfyne and the north were much more successful. I am anxious that these people should make a fair trial, both of herring and line-fishing; and so convinced am I of their capability that I am willing to advance half; but before binding myself would wish to know what description of boats, nets and lines the Fishery Board would recommend for this purpose, and what would be the expense of the whole outfit; what rules and recommendations are given; in fact, all information which would tend to ensure the success of the experiment.

I consider this a favourable juncture to impart energy to the fishers of this coast. One of the great drawbacks has been, that each family has required a small boat to carry sea ware, to manure their potatoes, which prevented them clubbing to buy large boats. Boats, at least for the present, are not required for potatoes; therefore embrace the opportunity and give the industry of the country a new impulse.

• TREASURY MINUTE on the above.

January 1, 1847.

Write to Sir T. D. Lauder, that their Lordships will be prepared to consider any proposal he may think it right to make to them after full inquiry and consideration, with the view of extending to other cases within the distressed districts on the north-west coast of Scotland, assistance similar to that which has been already offered to be given for the erection of fishery piers, and for providing gear for fishermen; but it must be understood, that such assistance is to be strictly confined to districts which stand in need of extraordinary aid to enable the population to subsist during the present scarcity; and their Lordships would suggest, that in all his proceedings on this subject, Sir T. D. Lauder should act in close cooperation with Commissary-General Sir E. Coffin.

Transmit a copy of Sir T. D. Lauder's letter and enclosures, and of this Minute, to Sir E. Coffin for his information.

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